



colorado symphony
association affiliate

2020-2021

Denver Young Artists Orchestra

Member Handbook

Denver Young Artists Orchestra
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Introduction

Welcome to one of the finest youth orchestra programs in the United States. We are pleased that you have chosen to participate, and we hope that you will experience the many joys of performing with such a talented group of peers. The artistic and administrative staff is committed to your progress, creative achievement, and musical education.

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ABOUT THE DENVER YOUNG ARTISTS ORCHESTRA

The Denver Young Artists Orchestra was established in 1977 and has become the premier youth orchestra program of the Rocky Mountain region. The mission of the Denver Young Artists Orchestra is to provide the finest possible youth orchestra programs, inspiring and educating young musicians through the performance of great works of music, and offering valuable cultural opportunities to the community. The Denver Young Artists Orchestra prides itself on its collaborative ventures with the Colorado Symphony Orchestra (CSO) including an annual YAO/CSO Side-by-Side concert. DYAO is the only youth orchestra granted this honor.

The Denver Young Artists Orchestra is comprised of 3 large ensembles, and a beginning instrumental program:

- Young Artists Orchestra (YAO): Colorado's most advanced youth symphony orchestra consisting of approximately 90 students ages 12-23.
- Conservatory Orchestra (CO): Considered to be second only to YAO in the Denver Metro area. This full orchestra consists of approximately 70 members ages 10 through 18 and perform advanced orchestral works.
- String Ensemble (SE): Young string players ages 7 through 13 explore string orchestra literature and develop their ensemble-playing skills.
- The Beginning Group Strings Program: was developed in 2009 as a direct result of the increased elimination of school instrumental music programs and is currently present at Park Hill, Polaris@Ebert, Jewell, Wheeling, and Doull Elementary Schools.

This programmatic growth establishes an integrated developmental pathway for musicians as their abilities grow and will provide a pipeline of skilled musicians for positions in the senior ensemble. It also provides multiple levels of entry into the organization. The organization now provides musical training to nearly 250 musicians.

In February 2009 and 2016, the Denver Young Artists Orchestra received the Denver Mayor's Award for Excellence in the Arts, presented by Mayor John Hickenlooper, for the orchestra's significant and lasting contribution to music education in the City and County of Denver. DYAO also earned the 2017 American Prize for Performance of American Music, the 2018 Overall American Prize for Orchestral Performance, and is a finalist for the 2020 American Prize in both categories.

In 2007 the Denver Young Artists Orchestra Association was awarded a three-year "Catalyst Partner" grant from the Bonfils-Stanton Foundation, which provided funding and consultation for the organization with the goal of increasing artistic offerings and effectiveness. Also in 2007, the association was awarded a composer residency grant by Meet the Composer and the League of American Orchestras. ASCAP has awarded the Denver Young Artists Orchestra Association the Youth Orchestra Award for Creative and Adventurous Programming in Contemporary Music. DYAO was featured at Red Rocks with *The Piano Guys* in 2016, 2017, and 2019, in CBS's nationally broadcast Kathie Lee Gifford special, *Christmas Every Day*, in December of 1998, and has performed family concerts at the Strings in the Mountains Music Festival in Steamboat Springs. Occasional domestic and international concert tours abroad offer the young musicians the experience of visiting and performing in some of the world's greatest musical venues.

Alumni have gone on to highly selective music schools such as the Curtis Institute of Music, Eastman School of Music, and The Juilliard School, as well as renowned local university programs. Past members can be found in the Atlanta Symphony, Boston Symphony, Chicago Symphony, Cleveland Orchestra, Colorado Symphony, and the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra. Alumni who choose careers in fields other than music have matriculated into prestigious universities such as Brown, Harvard, and Yale, as well as great state schools.

MEMBERSHIP POLICY

By accepting the position offered to you by the Denver Young Artists Orchestra Association, you are making a commitment to membership in the orchestra for the entire 2020-2021 season. ***This includes all rehearsals, concerts, retreats, and activities.*** There is no partial-year membership in the organization.

Members are required to be enrolled in private lessons and participate in their school music program (see p.17). It is highly recommended that members study their DYAO repertoire and auditions with their private instructor.

For 2020-2021, DYAO will be changing its refund policy. If a concert cycle is cancelled completely or if a student is not able to participate due to COVID-related concerns, the deposit for that cycle will be refunded. If a significant portion of a concert cycle is cancelled or if a student is not able to participate due to COVID-related concerns, tuition may be prorated. Tuition must be paid in full prior to the start of each cycle, or students risk losing their place in the orchestra. For families in need of financial assistance, DYAO offers tuition scholarships. If an orchestra member is dismissed or withdraws from the orchestra, they will not be eligible for any tuition or fee refund.

COVID-19 POLICY

DYAO requires that no student, staff, or conductor attend a rehearsal if they have any symptoms associated with COVID-19/Coronavirus or if they or a household member have been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 within the two week period preceding the positive test results.

In addition, DYAO will be utilizing a variety of protocols to ensure student safety including reducing ensemble size, reducing rehearsal

length for ventilation, and requiring each participant to follow other guidelines including but not limited to:

1. Each student will have their temperature checked prior to rehearsals as they enter the building. Students with a temperature of 100.4° will be sent home.
2. Any commonly touched surfaces will be disinfected with spray/wipes before, between, and after DYAO is in the building. This includes but is not limited to tables, door handles, equipment, etc.
3. Only approved parents (volunteers) will be allowed to enter the building.
4. Hand sanitizer will be readily available in multiple locations.
5. All students will bring their own music and music stand weekly to minimize surface contact.
6. All students will be masked when in the building (DYAO will provide if they do not have one).
7. Students will be spaced/socially distanced within the space at least 6 feet apart.
8. Winds/Brass Students will utilize additional safety protocols around spacing, bell covers, and masks as recommended by research.
9. There will be regular breaks for the spaces to properly ventilate and to disinfect common touch surfaces.
10. Students will be required to bring their own water bottles.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

DYAO musicians are expected to attend ***all*** rehearsals, dress rehearsals, and concerts. While it is recognized that there are occasional conflicts, attendance rules are strict because excessive absences adversely affect the quality of the orchestra.

Excused Absences

Although perfect attendance is expected for each member of DYAO in order for the orchestra to maintain its high standards, DYAO understands that students may request leave for SAT or ACT tests, required school

events, college auditions, recognized music competitions, religious observances and certain other involvements.

As such, with the Orchestra Manager's approval, students are permitted:

3 absences in a concert cycle with 9 or more rehearsals

2 absences in a concert cycle with 6 or more rehearsals

1 absence in the concert cycle with 5 rehearsals

0 absences in a concert cycle with 4 rehearsals

****If a student (or member of their household) is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, they should not attend rehearsal. If a student (or member of their household) tests positive for COVID-19, they should not attend rehearsals until 10 days have passed since the test (for cases with no symptoms) OR 10 days since symptoms first appeared (symptoms have improved) *and* 3 days with no fever ([per CDC guidelines](#)). If a student must miss rehearsal because of COVID, DYAO will make every effort to provide access to a virtual rehearsal, either in real time or via recording. **Students who are absent (because of COVID) for more rehearsals than allowed above must participate in at least 60% of the virtual rehearsals offered.******

If students are absent for more rehearsals than what is stated in the above-mentioned policy, they may not be allowed to play the concert. Students are ***not*** permitted for ***any*** reason to be absent from the dress rehearsal (defined by DYAO as any rehearsal during the week leading up to the concert) nor the sound check; if they are absent, they are not permitted to play the concert. Please review the calendar each cycle so that you are aware of how many absences are permitted.

To have an absence excused, one must have the absence cleared by the Orchestra Manager (**written, via email**) **no less than two (2) weeks** prior to the absence. Absences due to emergency, illness, or weather

must be reported by email or by calling the DYAO Orchestra Manager (303-433-2420, ext. 406) before the start of the rehearsal.

Unexcused Absences

An unexcused absence is defined as an absence without the approval of the Orchestra Manager, or frequent late arrivals or early departures. Unexcused absences are not tolerated by the DYAO and may be grounds for dismissal from the orchestra or concert cycle. At any point in time, the conductor may ask a student to demonstrate proficiency of the repertoire.

REHEARSALS AND SECTIONALS

Young Artists Orchestra: Rehearsals are held most Saturday mornings between 9:00am and 12:30pm. Occasionally, there will be optional workshops scheduled between 12:00pm and 1:00pm. A complete rehearsal schedule will be available at orientation and on CHARMS. Historically, rehearsals have been held in Room 130 of the University of Denver's Lamont School of Music (2344 E Iliff Ave, Denver). The rehearsal order will be announced via the Weekly Bulletin at least one week in advance. **NOTE: rehearsal location will change depending on venue availability so please refer frequently to CHARMS/Weekly Bulletin for the most updated info.**

Conservatory Orchestra: Rehearsals are held most Monday evenings between 6:30pm and 8:30pm. A complete rehearsal schedule will be available at orientation and on CHARMS. Fall rehearsals will be held at Denver First Church (3800 E Hampden Ave, Englewood, CO). The rehearsal order will be announced via the Weekly Bulletin at least one week in advance. **NOTE: rehearsal location may change depending on venue availability so please refer frequently to CHARMS/Weekly Bulletin for the most updated info.**

String Ensemble: Rehearsals are held most Monday evenings between 5:30pm and 7:00pm. A complete rehearsal schedule will be available at

orientation and on CHARMS. Fall rehearsals will be held at Denver First Church (3800 E Hampden Ave, Englewood, CO). The rehearsal order will be announced via the Weekly Bulletin at least one week in advance.

NOTE: rehearsal location may change depending on venue availability so please refer frequently to CHARMS/Weekly Bulletin for the most updated info.

Rehearsal cancellation due to weather is rare. Rehearsals are only cancelled under extreme conditions. You will be notified by text (phone number used from CHARMS account), email, and Facebook post if a rehearsal is cancelled. Because members come from all along the Front Range and mountains, driving conditions vary greatly. Students and/or parents must judge what is safe for their circumstances. Please leave a message on the DYAO Orchestra Manager extension prior to the start of rehearsal if you will be late or unable to attend due to weather.

During the 2020-2021 season, rehearsals may be cancelled due to COVID-related issues in nearby schools or at the rehearsal venue. In these instances, we may replace the live rehearsal with a Zoom/digital session.

Rehearsal schedules are distributed in the Weekly Bulletin and posted at rehearsals, when possible. Check your most recent bulletin carefully! **Members and their families are responsible for knowing their rehearsal schedule.** Please bring your music, music folder, and a sharpened pencil to every rehearsal. You should arrive early enough to sign-in on the attendance sheet, set up, and warm up (strings, winds, and brass about 15 minutes minimum, percussion 25-30 minutes). You must be signed-in **BEFORE** rehearsal begins or you will be counted as tardy.

Arriving at rehearsal on time, with your music and your instrument(s) is only the first step to a successful rehearsal. Each orchestra has relatively few rehearsals per concert period, so it is imperative that students use their own time to learn their parts. Expect to spend time each week preparing your part for the upcoming rehearsal. Please address technical problems with your private teacher in advance so that each rehearsal can be a time for shaping interpretation with the whole ensemble. Members

who appear to be inadequately prepared on a regular basis may be reseated or dismissed from the orchestra.

Music will be issued to each orchestra member prior to the first rehearsal of each concert period. If you are not at rehearsal to receive your music when it is distributed, you may pick it up from the office or at the next rehearsal. Music and music folders must be returned after each concert, or as instructed by the Orchestra Manager.

CONCERTS & DRESS CODE

Each orchestra will perform several concerts throughout the season. All members should plan to arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the sound check and/or concert call times (percussion should arrive at least 30 minutes prior). The dress codes for each orchestra are as follows:

Young Artists Orchestra and Conservatory Orchestra: All members must wear appropriate attire as listed below. If you are not dressed in accordance with Denver Young Artists Orchestra Association policies, you may not be allowed on stage for the performance.

- No jeans, khaki pants, or leggings
- No t-shirts or tank tops
- No sport socks, sport shoes, or sandals
- No flashy hair ornaments or jewelry
- No sheer, lace, or mesh clothing
- No side slit skirts or dresses
- No bare legs or feet

Option I: Black suit, white shirt, black bow tie, black socks, and polished black shoes; standard tuxedos are preferred. No vests, no colors.

Option II: Black shirt (at least elbow length sleeves) & long black skirt or slacks (or black dress), polished black shoes (**closed-toe only**), and black hose. ***Hose, socks, or stockings are required!** Skirts/dresses should touch the floor when you are seated.

String Ensemble: All members must wear appropriate attire as listed below. If you are not dressed in accordance with Denver Young Artists Orchestra Association policies, you may not be allowed on stage for the performance.

- No jeans, khaki pants, or leggings
- No t-shirts or tank tops
- No sport socks, sport shoes, or sandals
- No flashy hair ornaments or jewelry
- No sheer, lace, or mesh clothing
- No side slit skirts or dresses
- No bare legs or feet

Option I: White shirt, black pants, black socks, and polished black shoes. No vests, no colors.

Option II: White shirt (at least elbow length sleeves) & long black skirt or slacks (or black dress), polished black shoes (**closed-toe only**), and black hose. ***Hose, socks, or stockings are required!** Skirts/dresses should touch the floor when you are seated.

Concert Tickets: The Denver Young Artists Orchestra Association sells tickets for each of its performances. Students under the age of 23 and teachers can receive free tickets for any concert presented by DYAO. For more information on concerts, please visit dyao.org.

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Each week, the staff will email a Weekly Bulletin containing important information on upcoming events, competitions, concerts, etc. **THIS IS DYAO'S MAIN SOURCE OF COMMUNICATION WITH FAMILIES.** *Members and parents are responsible for all information communicated in the Weekly Bulletin.*

CHARMS OFFICE

We use a secure online program to manage our members' information, called CHARMS Office Assistant. Through CHARMS, you can access and edit your personal information which we use to contact you via email, phone, mail, and (in case of emergency) text message. To access this area: 1. At dyao.org, go to "Student Portal" then "Charms Login" 2. Charms will prompt you to enter your school code (which is "dyao") 3. Use the password that you created upon registration to continue.

ENTRANCE AND SEATING AUDITIONS

Entrance Auditions: All members must re-audition for the orchestra annually, and no seat is guaranteed. Formal auditions for the following season are held each spring for new applicants and returning members. Notification of audition results are made promptly by email following the completion of all auditions. Auditions consist of one short solo(s) totaling no more than one minute, selected excerpts, scales, and/or sight reading as applicable. Auditions are unaccompanied, memorization is not required, and copies of the solo piece do not need to be given to the judges. *If the orchestra lacks members in any section during the season, prospective musicians may audition for the conductor by special appointment. The staff actively recruits year-round for the orchestras. Families' help in the recruiting process is greatly appreciated.*

Seating Auditions: Screened seating auditions are usually held prior to the start of each (or every second) concert cycle. Depending on the schedule and the conductor's programming choices, seating may happen as often as per concert cycle, or every other concert. **Note: Changes in seating for any section may be made by the conductor at any time for any reason.** Woodwind and brass members are often rotated at the conductor's discretion. **Music for seating auditions will be available no later than 2 weeks prior to the audition date. Please do not request or expect it any earlier. If it is available earlier than 2 weeks before, you will be notified.**

****For the 2020-2021 season, DYAO may have to alter its normal seating audition procedures due to COVID-related concerns.****

Along with the many joys of music-making, there are some challenges. One challenge is the seating audition. The staff and conductors are aware that this can be a difficult time for some students. We have considered many options over the years and believe that it is important to continue the practice of seating auditions. There are four major benefits to seating auditions. They serve as an evaluative tool, a means to encourage learning the music, training for “real-life” auditions, and preparation for other life lessons.

Concertmaster auditions for YAO will occur periodically throughout the season and will be heard by a small committee including professional musicians and/or the Music Director. When possible with the schedule, the concertmaster auditions will take place the same day as the regular seating auditions. The concertmaster auditions, as in the case of professional principal or concertmaster finals, will not take place with a screen. Concertmaster auditions for Conservatory will take place before regular rehearsal the week after seating auditions. The top 4 players will be notified by email and will be expected to play the same material as the week before.

A Note on Orchestra Seating: An orchestral ensemble functions similarly to sports in that the focus is on the *entire* ensemble rather than on individual players. An orchestra is made up of many sections/instruments and most sections are broken into parts (first, second, third, etc.). Part separations are not hierarchical. All parts are critical to the sound and balance of the orchestra as a whole. The Denver Young Artists Orchestra views seating auditions as a means to help determine which person is best suited to perform a certain part. Following a seating audition, students are initially ranked and then placed within the sections. At times, strong/experienced players will be distributed within the section to create the best (and most balanced) orchestra possible.

*****We would like to stress that family and other outside involvement in this process is disruptive to the Music Directors, Members, Coaches, and Staff. This is an educational organization, and as such, we ask that you trust our professional judgment.***

Principals: String principals (“1st/2nd chair”) are held to a higher standard of preparation and attendance. If a student is absent for an extended period (or misses more than two rehearsals at the retreat), they will not be permitted to serve as section principal. The principal and assistant principal in each string section are determined through the seating audition. Your principal and assistant principal may be responsible for leading sectionals as well as answering questions you may have regarding your part or other aspects of music for your section.

Additionally, if new music/bowings are distributed during a rehearsal, your principal is responsible for giving you this information. If you are not sure who your section principal is, please ask the Orchestra Manager.

Note: The conductor, at their discretion, may request from a student to play alone outside of rehearsal to ensure preparedness.

Concerto Accompaniment: The Denver Young Artists Orchestra Association regularly engages professional soloists to perform solo works with its ensembles. Students benefit from exposure to these artists. However, the size of the orchestra occasionally needs to be reduced at the conductor’s discretion for acoustical concerns related to the soloist’s needs. String players in the back of their respective sections may be rotated off during these solo works in order to create the correct balance for the soloist. If you have questions pertaining to this policy, please see the Orchestra Manager for clarification.

ORCHESTRA RETREATS

YAO & CO: YAO and CO traditionally travel outside of Denver for a weekend retreat. For 2020-2021, the format will be altered due to COVID. This is a fun time when students become acquainted with each other and with the artistic and administrative staff. Students are well-supervised and will remain on the rehearsal property at all times.

The retreat is mandatory for all YAO and CO members. Please let us know immediately if you have a conflict, or if there are any individual concerns we should be aware of. If for some reason your child is unable to attend the retreat, they are not eligible to sit in a principal or assistant principal position within the orchestra (strings only).

String Ensembles: All members of the String Ensembles will join together for a day of fun and music making. The retreat is held at the University of Denver's Lamont School of Music in Room 100. The date of this event is usually a Saturday in late-September from 10am to 3pm. Lunch is included with this retreat as well as a few activities. Further information about the retreat will be provided in mid-September.

The retreat is mandatory for all String Ensemble members.

BEHAVIORAL CONDUCT & ETIQUETTE

It is the goal of the Denver Young Artists Orchestra Association to create an atmosphere in which advanced student musicians can thrive and further develop their training and musicality. Behavioral misconduct or bullying by students or family members is not in line with this goal. Therefore, the Denver Young Artists Orchestra Association has a zero-tolerance policy regarding misconduct in any form. Any actions deemed by the Artistic or Administrative staff as inappropriate may result in that member being immediately expelled from the Denver Young Artists Orchestra Association.

Cell phones, iPods, gaming devices and other similar electronic devices are not to be used while a rehearsal is in progress and while a student is in the rehearsal room, regardless if they are playing at that moment or not. *Tablets are only allowed for music-reading purposes.*

The use of these devices is disrespectful, distracting, and strictly prohibited. The first time a member is seen using such an electronic device during rehearsal, the member will be given a warning and the device will be confiscated until the end of rehearsal. Second-time offenders will be immediately dismissed from the Denver Young Artists Orchestra Association. ***If there is an emergency and phone use is necessary, please notify the Orchestra Manager.***

Please be courteous to your fellow musicians. Please also respect your rehearsal and performance spaces. Students should not run, yell or scream in hallways, and should be quiet during rehearsal. At no time should students move furniture or other people's belongings. Please clean up your area following rehearsals and concerts, and properly dispose of your garbage.

DYAO will adhere to all applicable public health guidelines and policies surrounding COVID-19. This applies to any students, parents, staff, etc. who are present at any DYAO activity.

If you have questions or concerns about anything related to the Denver Young Artists Orchestra Association including behavioral conduct of a musician, please immediately speak with a staff member.

Inclusion and Diversity Statement

The Denver Young Artists Orchestra strives to foster a climate of purposeful inclusion of all its members. We value the diversity of racial and cultural identity and background, nationality, sexual orientation, gender identity and its expression, religious background and belief, age, mental and physical health and ability. We hold a zero tolerance policy for bullying and discrimination as our organization is meant to be a safe place for all. Please inform DYAO staff if you have a particular pronoun identification request.

PRIVATE LESSONS AND SCHOOL MUSIC PROGRAM PARTICIPATION POLICY

It is a requirement of all members of the Denver Young Artists Orchestra Association to actively take private lessons. If you need help finding a teacher or require financial assistance, please contact the Orchestra Manager.

All members are required to participate in their school music programs. Exemptions from this policy may be considered because of conflicting class schedules, etc.. Home-schooled students or those without a school music program are exempt from this requirement. All students should fill out the “School Ensemble” form, whether participating or exempt, and have it signed by the appropriate school authority. If your school’s music program is affected by COVID, please notify the Orchestra Manager.

DYAO serves as a supplement to, not a replacement for, music in the schools. There is no substitute for the daily or almost daily rehearsal in school music programs. DYAO rehearsals are only once a week; it is the combination of school ensemble rehearsals and DYAO rehearsals that helps our students to master challenging and musically rewarding repertoire each year. By participating in school music programs, students play an important part in helping to build strong music programs in our schools and community.

OUTREACH PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENT

Every member is required to complete at least one outreach performance during the season. For the 2020-2021 season, the outreach performance can be virtual instead of in-person. This type of performance is important for a musician’s development and offers the benefit of a live musical performance to those who do not normally have access to it.

Opportunities will be offered by Denver Young Artists Orchestra Association throughout the season, or students may choose to arrange their own outreach performance. Contact DYAO staff if you need more

ideas. A record of the outreach performance must be submitted electronically using the form on our website:

<https://www.dyao.org/student-portal/forms/outreach-hours-form.html>.

Submissions via any other method will not be considered.

Rules for outreach performances:

1. The student must not receive compensation for the performance.
2. The student must represent the Denver Young Artists Orchestra by stating that they are with the DYAO and/or posting DYAO promotional materials at the performance venue.
3. Performances may be educational in nature (i.e. instrument demonstration at a local elementary school).
4. The outreach performance must be free for the public.

VOLUNTEER DEPOSIT (*WAIVED FOR 2020-2021*)

Parent volunteers are vital to the success of the orchestra. The Denver Young Artists Orchestra Association has many organizational and fundraising needs. Volunteer jobs include, but are not limited to:

- Helping with concerts, auditions, competitions, retreats, etc.
- Setting up and taking down chairs and stands at rehearsals and concerts
- Inviting acquaintances and friends to concerts
- Assisting staff with recruiting efforts
- Planning, organizing, and helping with the annual gala and other fundraising events
- Soliciting donations and advertising for concert programs and annual silent auction
- Transporting equipment and fundraising items to and from events
- Assisting staff with data entry, filing, mailings and other administrative work
- Delivering promotional material to schools, cultural art venues and businesses

DYAO families participate in the “Volunteer Deposit” program. The purpose of the volunteer deposit program is to create a positive sense of community between member families and the organization as well as to ensure that volunteers are available and motivated to help with concerts, fundraising and events. Each family deposits \$150, which is earned back by volunteering a minimum of 9 hours and one outreach performance (see above section: *Outreach Performance Requirement*). We have many projects, events, concerts, administrative jobs, fundraising, and chaperoning opportunities which require your help. 9 hours plus one outreach service are required in order to have your deposit returned. You can submit your volunteer hours (either all at once, or each time you volunteer) electronically using the form on our website:

<https://www.dyao.org/student-portal/forms/volunteer-hours-form.html>

CONCERTO COMPETITIONS

Young Artists Orchestra Winds and Brass

The YAO Wind Concerto Competition is open to all current YAO members who are participating in the entire season with the exception of previous winners. The winner will play their selection with YAO at the November concert. Auditions typically take place during the weekend retreat. Candidates should prepare one movement of a concerto or concertino. Memorization is highly recommended. *Note: Works other than a solo piece with orchestral accompaniment (i.e. concerto, concertino, etc.) will not be permitted.*

****For the 2020-2021 season, repertoire must use only chamber orchestra accompaniment; approval required by August 1.**** All entries must be approved by the Music Director to ensure that the selected piece is an appropriate programming choice for YAO. Please consult with the Music Director when you are selecting your concerto.

Note that the following concerti are not permitted this season:

Enesco	Legende for Trumpet
Lebrun	Concerto No.1 for Oboe
Nielsen	Concerto for Flute

Young Artists Orchestra

The YAO Concerto Competition is open to all current YAO members who are participating in the entire season with the exception of previous winners. The winner will play their selection with YAO on the final concert in Boettcher Concert Hall. Candidates should prepare the entire work (**note: for YAO, this means a multi-movement work*). In the preliminary round of the competition, candidates will perform 10 minutes of excerpts from the entire work. (Cadenzas are highly recommended to be included in the selections performed). Following the preliminary round, candidates selected for the final round of the competition will be required to perform the entire work from memory for a public audience. *Note: Works other than a solo piece with orchestral accompaniment (i.e. concerto, concertino, etc.) will not be permitted.*

Students may compete on an instrument other than what they play in YAO, and students may enter the competition for two different works so long as they are on two different instruments (i.e. violin & piano).

All entries must be approved by the Staff or Music Director to ensure that the selected piece is an appropriate programming choice for YAO. Please consult with the Music Director when you are selecting your concerto. Concertos under 40 minutes are preferred.

Note that the following concerti are not permitted this season:

Bowen

Viola Concerto

Conservatory Orchestra

The Conservatory Orchestra Concerto Competition is open to all current Conservatory Orchestra members who are participating in the entire season with the exception of previous winners. The winner(s) will play their selection (*only one movement is required*) with the Conservatory Orchestra on the Spring concert. Candidates should prepare one movement of a concerto or concertino. Memorization is highly recommended. *Note: Works other than a solo piece with orchestral accompaniment (i.e. concerto, concertino, etc.) will not be permitted.*

Students may compete on an instrument other than what they play in CO, and students may enter the competition for two different works so long as they are on two different instruments (i.e. violin & piano).

All entries must be approved by the conductor to ensure that the piece you have selected is an appropriate programming choice for the Conservatory Orchestra. Please consult with the conductor when you are selecting your concerto.

Note that the following concerti are not permitted this season:

Mendelssohn

Violin Concerto in D Minor

String Ensemble

The String Ensemble Concerto Competition is open to all current String Ensemble members who are participating in the entire season with the exception of previous winners. The winner(s) will play their selection with the String Ensembles on the Spring concert. They should prepare one movement of a concerto or concertino. Memorization is highly recommended. *Note: Works other than a solo piece with orchestral accompaniment (i.e. concerto, concertino, etc.) will not be permitted.*

Students may compete on an instrument other than what they play in SE, and students may enter the competition for two different works so long as they are on two different instruments (i.e. violin & piano).

All entries must be approved by the conductor to ensure that the piece you have selected is an appropriate programming choice for the String Ensemble. Please consult with the conductor when you are selecting your concerto.

Note that the following concerti are not permitted this season:

Rieding

Concertino in Hungarian Style

PARENT-STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

The Orchestra Manager (Rachael Brown), Office and Marketing Manager (Javier Abreu) and Executive Director (Kelly Waltrip), are your contacts for all administrative details. All schedule conflicts, special circumstances, etc., should be discussed first with the Orchestra Manager, who will refer you to the appropriate person, if necessary.

The Weekly Bulletin is our main resource for relaying important information, and all students are responsible for reading it each week and relaying the information to their parents (please see the section titled *Weekly Bulletin*, p.11.) If you have questions about any programs or events please call the office at 303.433.2420

Carpooling can provide a beneficial solution for families who need assistance driving their students to and from rehearsals. Please contact the office at 303.433.2420 for more information.

The DYAO office is located at 1385 S. Colorado Blvd, A722, Denver, 80222 and is open Monday-Friday, 12:00pm – 5:00pm. The Orchestra Manager is also available during weekly rehearsals. The office is closed on all major holidays. If you would like to visit the office, please call ahead to verify that a staff member is present.

Historically, all regular rehearsals have been open to the public.

****Rehearsals in the 2020-2021 season may be closed to the public and/or family members due to COVID.**** We ask that visitors adhere to normal standards of courtesy such as entering and leaving only at appropriate times and turning off electronic devices such as cell phones.

Additionally, to assist the organization with fundraising grants, we ask each visitor to sign in at rehearsal.

Please note: All sound check rehearsals and backstage areas are limited to members and staff only.

AMAZON SMILE & KING SOOPERS

We have some great opportunities available to help support the organization through passive support programs. If you use Amazon or shop at King Soopers, both of these options help DYAO to receive funding without any additional expense on your part. To sign up, it only takes a few clicks on your end! We hope you will consider supporting DYAO by signing up for these programs:

Amazon Smile

Turn your Amazon purchases into a force for good. With every eligible purchase, **AmazonSmile donates 0.5%** to the charity of your choice. This includes all Charity List purchases as well as millions of everyday items at [smile.amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/smile). AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service. Support your charitable organization by starting your shopping at [smile.amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/smile). To sign up, visit the link below and select Denver Young Artists Orchestra as your charitable organization.

https://www.amazon.com/gp/clpf?ie=UTF8&ref_=nav_wishlist_smi_se_ya_lll_ll

King Soopers Community Rewards

King Soopers is committed to helping our communities grow and prosper. Year after year, local schools, churches and other nonprofit organizations will earn thousands of dollars through King Soopers Community Rewards. King Soopers Community Rewards makes fund-raising easy...all you have to do is shop at King Soopers and swipe your SooperCard (or enter Alt ID)! Sign in or create an account to enroll. Once signed in, you can enroll or update your Community Rewards account under your Account Settings. To sign up, click the link below and select Denver Young Artists Orchestra as your charitable organization in your Account Settings.

<https://www.kingsoopers.com/topic/king-soopers-community-rewards>

Your help and support will make the Denver Young Artists Orchestra a success for years to come.

INSTRUMENT INSURANCE

While the Denver Young Artists Orchestra Association does not require that members insure their instruments, it strongly recommends that they do so. Often, instruments can be covered under your homeowner's insurance policy and does not add a great deal to your premium. Other forms of insurance, such as an inland-marine policy, are also available. Insuring your instrument can be a financial relief if accidental damage, theft, or other incidents occur. We strongly encourage you to contact your insurance agent to inquire about insuring your instrument(s).

As DYAO often tours out of the country, the organization is especially sensitive to instrumental concerns while abroad. If you will be traveling with the orchestra on an international tour, please double-check your insurance policy to ensure that it will cover you while out of the country.

The Denver Young Artists Orchestra Association also highly recommends that all orchestra members properly pack their instruments in their cases during all rehearsal breaks. Please do not leave your instrument unattended on your chair. **DYAO is not responsible for any damaged instruments due to student negligence.**

PHOTO & PERFORMANCE RELEASE

Photographs, video, and audio recordings of orchestra members by the Denver Young Artists Orchestra Association and/or news media may be taken throughout the season. By submitting your online registration, you are giving permission for the Denver Young Artists Orchestra Association to use your image and performance recordings in any official publication or presentation of the Denver Young Artists Orchestra Association. This includes, but is not limited to, multimedia productions such as television, video, radio, websites, brochures, etc., and you release all rights to the aforementioned image/recordings. You also understand that you will not be compensated for the use of the image. All students and parents should fill out the “Media Release” form in the orientation packet. Contact the Orchestra Manager if you have concerns.

VIDEO RECORDING

DYAO professionally records its concerts. These recordings are available for sale to DYAO families in DVD format. Parents and family members are not permitted to video record concerts.

TUNE UP! & BEGINNING STRINGS

In 2009, DYAO began its Beginning Strings program to train more young musicians who would not otherwise have access to lessons. At present, *Tune Up!* & the Beginning Strings program are present at Park Hill Elementary School and Polaris@Ebert Elementary in Denver, Doull Elementary School, Wheeling and Jewell Elementary.

MEET THE STAFF

Wes Kenney, DYAO Music Director: Wes Kenney is celebrating his 8th season as Music Director of the Denver Young Artists Orchestra and conductor of the Young Artists Orchestra. He has helped DYAO win multiple American Prizes in performance as well as the Ernst Bacon Memorial Prize for excellence in performance of American Music. Mr. Kenney is the 2007 Grand Prize Winner of the Varna (Bulgaria) International Conducting Competition and now is in his 18th season as Music Director of the Fort Collins (Colorado) Symphony and Director of Orchestras at Colorado State University. The former holds the distinction of being the only orchestra in the country to play a live July 4th concert in the country this past summer. Named in 2004 to an additional post as Music Director of Opera Fort Collins, he currently conducts three operatic productions as well as numerous orchestra concerts and dance performances each season throughout Northern Colorado.

Mr. Kenney's recent guest conducting activities include the Lviv Philharmonic in the Ukraine, Vietnam National Symphony in Hanoi, Changwon Symphony in South Korea, New Hampshire All-State, Acadiana Symphony (LA), New Mexico All-State, Lafayette (IN) Symphony, Alabama All-State Orchestra, Buffalo Philharmonic, Virginia Symphony, Alabama Symphony, New Mexico Symphony, and Richmond Symphony. Other international guest conducting includes performances with the Vidin State Philharmonic and Stara Zagora Opera Company in Bulgaria as well as the Edinburgh (Scotland) Music Festival. He has also appeared with the Savannah Symphony, Long Beach Symphony, and Dubuque Symphony.

Named Educator of the Year by the Colorado Chapter of the American String Teachers Association in 2008, Mr. Kenney enjoys working with talented young people. Awarded the prestigious Carmen Dragon Conducting Prize in 1992, Wes Kenney is a founder of the CSU Summer Master of Music Education with an emphasis in conducting program, now in its 14th year.

Dr. Joel Schut, Conservatory Orchestra Conductor, is Director of the Philharmonia Orchestra and Instructor of Music Education at the University of Colorado Boulder where he teaches courses in music education, string pedagogy and orchestral performance.

Prior to his appointment at CU, he served as interim Director of Orchestras at the Crane School of Music SUNY-Potsdam, served on Music Education faculty at Michigan State University and taught for seven years in the Michigan public schools including the nationally recognized Okemos High School Orchestras. He is an active clinician for all-state, regional and honor orchestras and a passionate advocate for public school music programs throughout the country.

As a conductor, he has appeared with the Crane Symphony Orchestra, Michigan State Opera Theatre, Michigan State Symphony Orchestra and the University of Colorado-Boulder Symphony Orchestra. He served as Music Director of the Livingston Symphony Orchestra, founding director of the Detroit Medical Orchestra, and organizer of the Michigan Teachers Orchestra. He has collaborated with a range of professional artists including Andrés Cárdenas and Ralph Votapek and commissioned works for string and full orchestra.

A dedicated string educator, his research and service include work as a conductor-teacher trainer and advocate for cross-cultural music making. He has presented clinics and workshops on a range of topics and mentored young teachers nationally and internationally. He has worked with multiple engagements in Tunisia and Honduras and served as guest faculty at the Afghanistan Institute of Music. He facilitated a long running music host exchange connecting German and American young artists and has been a featured artist faculty at the Myanmar Music Festival. A graduate of the YOA Orchestra of the Americas Global Leaders Program, he has served as a program mentor connecting innovators in youth orchestra education throughout the Americas.

Dr. Schut currently serves as Editor for the American String Teacher Journal. He received his Doctorate in Orchestral Conducting from Michigan State University, Masters in Orchestral Conducting from the University of Colorado-Boulder and Bachelors in Violin Performance and Music Education from the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre and Dance where he was awarded the Albert A. Stanley Medal, the school's highest honor.

Robert Stahly, String Ensemble Conductor: Engaged in every aspect of music, Robert Stahly is an award-winning Northern Colorado based musician. As Director of Orchestras at Longmont High School, Robert grew the orchestra program to over triple its size while at the same time increasing the quality and diversity of the ensembles. In 2016 Robert was recognized as one of the top six educators in the St. Vrain Valley School District with an “Encore Award” and in 2019 Mr. Stahly was a finalist for “Teacher of the Year.” He is the conductor of the Longmont Youth Symphony String Ensemble, the Denver Young Artists Orchestra String Ensemble, and is a frequent guest conductor and clinician. As an instrumentalist Robert has performed in six countries with a variety of ensembles playing cello, tuba, and bass. Most recently he was appointed Associate Principal Cellist of the Longmont Symphony. A 2008 graduate of Colorado State University, Robert received degrees in Music Education, Tuba Performance, and a String Pedagogy Certificate.

Jeffrey Rubin, Wind/Brass Conductor, is originally from Williamsville, New York. He completed a Bachelor of Music degree at Ithaca College before moving to Colorado for graduate work. After completing a Masters degree in music performance with a minor in education, Jeff taught middle and high school band in Berthoud, Colorado, prior to starting his current position in South Boulder. Now in his fifth year as an educator in Boulder, Jeff works with the bands at Southern Hills Middle School, Fairview High School and several elementary schools in the south Boulder area. In 2009, the Southern Hills

Middle School band received a superior rating at the Colorado Bandmasters middle school band festival.

As a performer, Jeff has been a member of the horn sections in the Boulder Philharmonic and Cheyenne Symphony since 2005. He has also played with the Steamboat Springs Symphony, Ithaca College Faculty Brass Quintet, Cayuga Chamber Orchestra, and Cornell Festival Orchestra.

Kelly Waltrip, Executive Director, joined the DYAO staff in August, 2014 and works with the staff and board of DYAO to make the organization the best youth orchestra program it can be. Prior to this position, Kelly was the General & Personnel Manager of the Lexington Philharmonic where she was responsible for the artistic and educational programs of the orchestra. Additionally, Kelly has held positions with the Detroit Symphony, Opus 21, the Aspen Music Festival and the Gilmore International Keyboard Festival. In addition to her administrative experience, Kelly has performed as a soloist, accompanist and has also taught private piano lessons. She is passionate about music education and ensuring the future of classical music for future generations.

Since moving to Colorado, Kelly has become actively involved in the community, forming partnerships and getting involved with organizations such as the Colorado Symphony Education Committee and AMEE (Alliance for Music Education Equity)..

Kelly received her Bachelor of Arts in Music from Western Michigan University, and a Certificate of Arts Management from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. She has also taken classes in Arts Administration from the University of Kentucky online Masters program and is currently part of the Crestcom Leadership Institute.

Rachael Brown, Orchestra Manager, began her tenure with DYAO in 2019. Her career has spanned many facets of the musical field. As a freelance horn player, Rachael has performed with various ensembles

throughout the southwest, among them the New Mexico Philharmonic and Santa Fe Symphony, and recently served as principal horn of the Denver Pops Orchestra. Her teaching experience ranges from maintaining a private studio to working with El Sistema Colorado and the Young Musician Initiative, programs inspired by the El Sistema movement from Venezuela. Administratively, Rachael previously held the positions of Orchestral Librarian and Office Manager for the New Mexico Philharmonic.

Originally from Minnesota, Rachael received her Bachelor of Music in horn performance at Concordia College in Moorhead, MN, and her Master of Music degree at the University of New Mexico. After making Colorado her new home, Rachael was delighted by the opportunity to work with an outstanding musical organization like DYAO. She brings with her a passion for music and education and is excited to serve the students and families of the Denver Young Artists Orchestra.

Javier Abreu, Office and Marketing Manager, joined the Denver Young Artists Orchestra in 2019. Originally from Puerto Rico, Javier enjoyed a successful performing career as an opera singer which spanned over twenty years and included performances with New York City Opera, Atlanta Opera, Central City Opera, Pittsburgh Opera, Chicago Opera Theater, Florida Grand Opera, Staatsoper Stuttgart, Theater Basel, Opera de Oviedo, and Teatro del Liceu in Barcelona, to name a few. He was also a featured soloist with the Pittsburgh Symphony, the National Symphony, the Phoenix Symphony, the Britt Festival and the Lexington Philharmonic.

He received his Bachelor of Arts in Music degree from the University of Miami, a Master in Voice Performance degree from the University of Houston, and an Artist Diploma in Opera Performance from The Juilliard School in New York City, where he was a member of the prestigious Juilliard Opera Center. He also holds a Master of Science in Organizational Leadership degree with a concentration in Human Resources from the University of Colorado - Boulder.