



# **2019-2020**

# **Denver Young**

# **Artists Orchestra**

# **Member Handbook**

Denver Young Artists Orchestra

1385 S. Colorado Blvd, #A722

Denver, CO 80222

Phone: (303) 433-2420

Fax: (720) 836-3335

[www.dyao.org](http://www.dyao.org) • [info@dyao.org](mailto:info@dyao.org)

## 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.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABOUT THE DENVER YOUNG ARTISTS ORCHESTRA...	4
MEMBERSHIP POLICY...	6
ATTENDANCE POLICY...	6
REHEARSALS AND SECTIONALS...	8
CONCERTS...	10
WEEKLY BULLETIN...	11
ORCHESTRA AND CHAIR AUDITIONS...	12
ORCHESTRA RETREATS...	15
BEHAVIORAL CONDUCT & ETIQUETTE...	16
COMMENTS & CONCERNS POLICY....	17
PRIVATE LESSONS...	17
SCHOOL MUSIC PROGRAM PARTICIPATION POLICY...	17
OUTREACH PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENT...	18
PARENT VOLUNTEERS...	19
CONCERTO COMPETITIONS...	20
PARENT-STAFF COMMUNICATIONS...	23
KING SOOPERS & AMAZON SMILE...	25
INSTRUMENT INSURANCE...	25
PHOTO & PERFORMANCE RELEASE...	26
VIDEO RECORDING...	26
<i>TUNE UP!</i> & GROUP STRINGS PROGRAM...	26
MEET THE STAFF...	27

# 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:

- YAO: Colorado's most advanced youth symphony orchestra consisting of approximately 90 students ages 12-23.
- Conservatory Orchestra: 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: where 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 Elementary, Polaris@Ebert Elementary, Jewell Elementary, and Doull Elementary.

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, and the 2018 Overall American Prize for Orchestral Performance.

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 Adventuresome Programming in Contemporary Music. DYAO was featured at Red Rocks with *The Piano Guys* in 2016 and 2017, 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, 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 2019-2020 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. It is highly recommended that members study their DYAO repertoire with their private instructor.

Once the season begins with the first rehearsal, no refunds are given for any portion of tuition, volunteer deposit, or retreat fees. Tuition and fees must be paid in full prior to the start of the season, or students risk losing their place in the orchestra. For families in need of financial assistance, DYAO offers tuition scholarships and/or payment plans. If an orchestra member is dismissed or withdraws from the orchestra, s/he will not be eligible for any tuition or fee refund.

# 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 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.

Therefore, with the approval of the Orchestra Manager 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**

Students are **not** permitted for **any** reason to be absent from the dress rehearsal, which is defined by DYAO as any rehearsal the week of the concert; 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 main line (303) 433-2420 (Orchestra Manager's extension) 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. If students are absent for more rehearsals than what is stated in the above-mentioned policy, they will not be allowed to play the concert. At any point in time, the conductor may ask a student to demonstrate proficiency of the repertoire.

## Rehearsals and Sectionals

**YAO:** 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. Rehearsals will be held in Room 130 of the University of Denver's Lamont School of Music (2344 E Iliff Ave, Denver). **NOTE: rehearsal location may change depending on venue availability so please refer frequently to CHARMS for the most updated info.** The rehearsal order will be announced via the Weekly Bulletin at least one week in advance.

**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. Rehearsals will be held in the Great Hall at Bethany Lutheran Church (4500 E Hampden Ave, Cherry Hills Village). The rehearsal order will be announced via the Weekly Bulletin at least one week in advance.

**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. Rehearsals will be held in the Great Hall at Bethany Lutheran Church (4500 E Hampden Ave, Cherry Hills



Village). The rehearsal order will be announced via the Weekly Bulletin at least one week in advance.

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.

Rehearsal schedules are distributed at rehearsal on the Weekly Bulletin. Check your most recent schedule carefully! **Members are responsible for knowing their rehearsal schedule and relaying it to their parents.** 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

Each orchestra will perform several concerts throughout the season. All members should plan to arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the dress rehearsal and concert call times (percussion should arrive at least 30 minutes prior).

**Concert Dress (YAO and Conservatory Orchestras):** All members must wear appropriate attire as listed below. If you are not dressed in accordance with Denver Young Artists Orchestra Association policies, you will not be allowed on stage for the performance.

- No jeans, khaki pants, or leggings
  - No t-shirts or tank tops
- No sport socks or sport shoes
- 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.

**Concert Dress (String Ensembles): All members must wear appropriate attire as listed below. If you are not dressed in accordance with Denver Young Artists Orchestra Association policies, you will not be allowed on stage for the performance.**

**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 Teacher tickets are free for any DYAO presented concert. Season brochures will be mailed to you and will be available at rehearsals. For more information on concerts please visit [www.dyao.org](http://www.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 given 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. Click the "DYAO Members" link found on the homepage of our website. 2. Charms will prompt you to enter your school code (which is "dyao") 3. Use your ID and password that you created upon registration to continue.

## ORCHESTRA 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 mail following the completion of all auditions. Auditions consist of one short solo(s) totaling no more than three minutes, sight-reading and/or selected excerpts 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:** 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 life lessons.

Screened seating auditions are held prior to the start of each (or every second) concert cycle. Woodwind and brass members are often rotated at the conductor’s discretion.

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.**

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. The Music Directors and Coaches work with the members on a regular basis and are able to determine the best possible results for the ensemble based on each individual's growth and strengths on their respective instruments and music. This is a training organization, and as such, we ask that you trust our professional judgment.***

Principals: String principals ("1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> 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: at the conductor's discretion, he/she may request 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 & Conservatory Orchestras:** DYAO and the Conservatory Orchestras travel to Greeley for a weekend retreat. During this time the orchestras prepare music for their first concert. This is also 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 or the hotel at all times. The cost of the retreat covers lodging, transportation, activities, and meals and is included in the overall tuition. The dates of the retreat are September 6-8<sup>th</sup>.

The retreat is mandatory for all YAO and Conservatory Orchestra members. Please let us know immediately if you have a conflict for these dates, 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). **\*\*NOTE: there is no partial return of tuition if your child is unable to attend the retreat.**

**String Ensembles:** This fall, 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 Saturday, September 21st 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 s/he is playing at that moment or not.** 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.

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.



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. No exceptions.

All members are required to participate in their school music programs. Exemptions from this policy may be considered with a signed letter from the school music instructor or a school administration official such as a principal or dean. Home-schooled students or those without a school music program are exempt from this requirement.

# OUTREACH PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENT

Every member is required to complete at least one outreach performance during the season. 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. Participants in the chamber ensemble program automatically fulfill the outreach requirement.

The outreach performance must be submitted electronically using the **Google Form** which can be found online at [www.dyao.org/members](http://www.dyao.org/members). Submissions via any other method will not be considered. Note: in order to receive your \$150 volunteer deposit refund (see the section called *Parent Volunteers* below for more details), the outreach performance requirement must be submitted in combination with 9 hours of volunteer service throughout the season.

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.
5. The form must be filled out in order to be eligible for a return of the Volunteer Deposit.

# VOLUNTEER DEPOSIT

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.
- Helping with setup and take-down of 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
- Helping with 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

Denver Young Artists Orchestra Association 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 called *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 **Google Form** which can be found online at [www.dyao.org/members](http://www.dyao.org/members).

## CONCERTO COMPETITIONS

### YAO

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 DYAO 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 approximately 10 minutes of excerpts from the entire work. (Cadenzas are highly recommended to be included in the selections performed in this competition). 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 DYAO, 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 piece you have selected 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:

Sarasate	Violin Concerto
Barber	Violin Concerto
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 Orchestras 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 Conservatory, 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 Orchestras. Please consult with the conductor when you are selecting your concerto.

Note that the following concerti are not permitted this season:

Bach	Violin Concerto
Kabalevsky	Cello Concerto
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 String Ensemble, 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:

Komorovsky  
Reiding  
Vivaldi  
Reiding

Concerto in A Major  
Concerto for Violin  
Violin Concerto in g minor  
Concertino in Hungarian Style

# PARENT-STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

**The Orchestra Manager (Rachael Brown) and Executive Director (Kelly Waltrip), are your main 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. Please see the “Meet the Staff” section at the end of this handbook for areas of responsibility for each staff member.

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 above titled *Weekly Bulletins*.) 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 kids to and from rehearsals. Please contact the office at 303.433.2420 for more information.

The Denver Young Artists Orchestra office is located at 1385 S. Colorado Blvd, A722, Denver, 80222 and is open Monday-Friday, 12pm – 5:00 pm. 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.

All regular rehearsals are open to the public, and we are happy to have your family, and friends come and listen. 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.**

### YOU CAN HELP US!

We have a few great opportunities available to help support the organization through passive support programs. If you use Amazon or go to King Soopers both of these options help DYAO to receive funding without any additional expense on your part and 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 click the link below and select Denver Young Artists Orchestra as your charitable organization!

[https://www.amazon.com/gp/clpf?ie=UTF8&ref\\_=nav\\_wishlist\\_smile\\_ya\\_lll\\_ll](https://www.amazon.com/gp/clpf?ie=UTF8&ref_=nav_wishlist_smile_ya_lll_ll)

#### **King Soopers Community Rewards**

Giving More Back to the Community! 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 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 instruments.

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.

### Video Recording

DYAO has its concerts professionally video recorded in DVD format. These recordings are available for sale to DYAO families. 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, Jewell Elementary.

# MEET THE STAFF

**Wes Kenney, DYAO Music Director**, was the 2007 Grand Prize Winner of the Varna (Bulgaria) International Conducting Competition, and now in his tenth season as Music Director of the Fort Collins (Colorado) Symphony. Named in 2004 to an additional post as Music Director of Opera Fort Collins, he currently conducts three professional 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 Alabama All-State Orchestra, Buffalo Philharmonic, Virginia Symphony, Alabama Symphony, New Mexico Symphony, and Richmond Symphony. 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, Dubuque Symphony, Acadiana (LA) Symphony, San Juan (CO) Symphony and Coastal Valleys (CA) Symphony.

Mr. Kenney has also enjoyed success directing opera, ballet and musical theater. Previous positions include Music Director of the Virginia Ballet Theater, Co-Principal Conductor of the Oakland Lyric Opera, and Guest Conductor with Universal Ballet Korea. During the 2011-12 Season he will conduct productions of Carmen, Amahl and the Night Visitors, Sweeney Todd, Turn of the Screw, and Barber of Seville. In the past five seasons he has conducted Madama Butterfly, Cenerentola, Rigoletto, Tosca, Die Zauberflöte, Die Fledermaus, La Traviata, Il Trovatore, Street Scene, La Bohème, Pagliacci, Cavalleria Rusticana, Falstaff, Turandot, Marriage of Figaro, The Merry Widow, Aida, Don Giovanni, and Tenderland. In addition he has conducted numerous performances of The Nutcracker, Swan Lake, The Firebird, and many other dance works. Named Educator of the Year by the Colorado Chapter of the American String Teachers Association in 2009, Mr. Kenney enjoys working with talented young people in his position as Director of Orchestras at

Colorado State University and has served as Guest Conductor with the Alabama, New Mexico, and Virginia All-State Orchestras. Awarded the prestigious Carmen Dragon Conducting Prize in 1992, Wes Kenney served as Music Director of the Oakland Youth Orchestra for five seasons.

Mr. Kenney is a past president of the Conductors Guild, a 2000 member service organization to the conducting profession. He currently is on the Guild's advisory board. He is a graduate of the University of Southern California and San Francisco State University. Additional studies include three years as a fellow at the Conductors Institute, several American Symphony Orchestra League and Conductors Guild Workshops, and the Sandpoint Festival. His teachers include Harold Farberman, Hans Beer, Gunther Schuller, Hans Swarovsky and Miltiades Carides.

**Nicholas Gilmore, Conservatory Orchestra Conductor**, currently serves at the Conductor of the Denver Young Artist Conservatory Orchestras, Principal Conductor and Music Director of Ozark Family Opera, and a Music Director and Conductor for the Halifax Summer Opera Festival in Nova Scotia. Previous appointments include Artistic Director of Heartland Opera Theatre in Joplin, Missouri for six seasons, and three seasons as the Principal Conductor and Chorus Master of Loveland Opera Theatre.

As a guest conductor, Gilmore has lead performances with the Aurora Symphony Orchestra, Opera Fort Collins, The Kansas Dance Festival Ballet, The Wichita Contemporary Music Festival, Open Space New Music Festival, Opera on the Avalon in Newfoundland, Colorado's Candlelight Dinner Playhouse, and Pacific Opera Project in Los Angeles. He has conducted as a special guest artist at Missouri Southern State University, Crowder College, Wichita State University, and the University of Northern Colorado where he also served for the 2014 spring semester as Director of Orchestras.

From the pit, Gilmore has conducted over 50 productions in the United States and Canada, most recently *La Traviata*, *Carmen*, *Susannah*, *La fille du régiment*, *Kismet*, *Down in the Valley*, *Evita*, and *Trouble in Tahiti*. His recent performances of *L'elisir d'amore* for Pacific Opera Project we're called "fiercely conducted" by LA's *Splash Magazines*, and *Opera Today* wrote, "Gilmore's light, airy but propulsive reading of the score captured both its comedy and its underlying sentiment." During his tenure as Artistic Director of Heartland Opera Theatre, the company experienced massive growth, both artistically and financially, becoming the strongest regional voice for quality opera in Southwest Missouri.

Gilmore has served on the faculty at Missouri Southern State University and Crowder College, teaching private horn, voice, vocal diction and literature, and introductory music history courses, in addition to conducting and coaching large and small ensembles. In 2009 he received a Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Award for "Excellence in Music Direction and Conducting" for his work on George Gershwin's *Lady be Good!*.

He holds a BM in Horn Performance and an MM in Instrumental Conducting from Wichita State University, where he was named the Dora Wallace Hodgson Outstanding Masters Student in 2009. He is currently finishing his Doctor of Arts in Orchestral Conducting and Operas Studies at the University of Northern Colorado under Dr. Russell Guyver.

**Robert Stahly, String Ensemble Conductor:** Engaged in every aspect of music, Robert Stahly is an award-winning Northern Colorado based musician. As an educator Mr. Stahly has taught instrumental music for over a decade. Director of Orchestras at Longmont High Schools, Mr. Stahly grew the orchestra program to over triple its size while at the same time increasing the quality and diversity of the ensembles. Selected to perform at the Colorado Music Educators Conference in 2016, the LHS Chamber Orchestra consistently ranks as

one of the top high school orchestras in Colorado. In 2016, Mr. Stahly was recognized as one of the top six educators in the St. Vrain Valley School District with an “Encore Award”. In 2019 Mr. Stahly was a finalist for “Teacher of the Year”.

Outside of the classroom, Mr. Stahly spent eleven years working with the Loveland High School Marching Band in a variety of capacities: Tuba Instructor, Assistant Director, Sound Engineer, and Lead Visual Instructor. He is the conductor of the Longmont Youth Symphony String Ensemble, and is a frequent guest conductor and clinician.

As an instrumentalist Mr. Stahly has performed in six countries with a variety of ensembles playing cello, tuba, or bass. A 2008 graduate of Colorado State University, Mr. Stahly received degrees in Music Education, Tuba Performance, and a String Pedagogy Certificate. Since then, he has continued to study at programs such as the CU Conducting Workshop, Conductors Institute at Bard College, MSU Conducting Symposium, Eastman School of Music Conducting Workshop, and CCM's Opera Bootcamp.

**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 Associate REMIX Board.

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:**

Originally from Minnesota, Rachael Brown 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. As a freelance horn player, Rachael has performed with various ensembles throughout the southwest and recently served as principal horn of the Denver Pops Orchestra. Her teaching experience has ranged from private students to working with the Young Musician Initiative and El Sistema Colorado, programs inspired by the El Sistema movement from Venezuela. In addition to teaching and performing, Rachael has worked as the orchestral librarian and office manager for the New Mexico

Philharmonic. She is excited to bring her passion for music and education to the Denver Young Artists Orchestra.

**Cecile Forsberg, Marketing & Development Manager:**

Cecile Forsberg is honored to be joining the Denver Young Artist Orchestra. Holding previous positions as the Chief Operating Officer with the National Repertory Orchestra and Assistant Personnel Manager with Utah Symphony | Utah Opera, she brings with her 10 years of orchestral administrative experience. She received her Masters in Arts Administration from Florida State University and her Bachelors in Violin Performance and Music Business from Drake University. Ms. Forsberg has a passion for building community through the arts and is looking forward to bringing this passion to the DYAO.