



Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra Handbook

(updated 6-19-2022)

GREATER DALLAS YOUTH ORCHESTRA

Sammons Center for the Arts

3630 Harry Hines Blvd.

Dallas, TX 75219

Phone: 214-528-7747

E-Mail: info@gdyo.org

Website: www.gdyo.org

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The GDYO Office

Location: 4th Floor, Sammons Center for the Arts; 3630 Harry Hines Blvd Suite 406 Dallas, TX 75219
Phone: 214-528-7747

Office hours: Monday-Friday - 9-5; Sunday during rehearsals – time and days do change so please call before coming to the office.

GDYO Office Staff

Members of the administrative staff are responsible for financial, logistic, communication, publication and maintenance aspects of the organization.

Cathy Hernandez, Executive Director, Contact: cathy@gdyo.org

Patrick Herring, Director of Operations, Contact: patrick@gdyo.org

Yurie Iwasaki, General Manager and Librarian, Contact: yurie@gdyo.org

Matt Richards, Orchestra manager, Contact matt@gdyo.org

Assistant Orchestra Managers

These part time employees are responsible for set up at the different rehearsal venues. They do not keep office hours.

Ensemble Conductors

The primary duty of the conductors is to select and teach music to their respective ensembles during rehearsal time. Conductor bios are available on our website: www.gdyo.org
Members of the artistic staff do not have office hours, phone extensions or email addresses at the GDYO office. Although they welcome questions and correspondence from members and parents outside of rehearsal time, all correspondence should be sent through the GDYO Staff.

Richard Giangiulio Music Director and Conductor of the Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra (GDYO)

Jeremy Kondrat Conductor of the Wind Symphony

James Frank Conductor of the Philharmonic.

Susan Younghans Conductor of Sinfonietta and the Dallas String Ensemble (DSE)

Charilyne Rojas Conductor of the Young Performers Orchestra (YPO)

Priscilla Holt Conductor of the Flute Choir

Jun Qian Conductor of the Clarinet Choir

Kris Berg Director of GDYO Jazz and conductor of the Jazz Orchestra

Alex Fralie Director of the Jazz Combo

Organization Information

The Greater Dallas Youth Orchestras, Inc. is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization governed by a volunteer board of directors. The board formulates policy, oversees fiscal affairs, and raises the operating budget, which includes rehearsal hall and office rent, concert production costs, coaching fees, scholarships, and artistic and administrative staff salaries. Tuition covers approximately 37% of the total funds needed for operations. GDYO relies heavily upon gifts from individuals, corporations, and foundations to cover costs of operation. City of Dallas' Office of Arts and Culture recognizes GDYO as one of the City's Mid-Sized Arts Institutions and in this capacity grants generous city funding.

The Ensembles

Young Performers Orchestra

This ensemble may be a student's first experience in a string group. The YPO is designed for young string players with left hand accuracy in first position, basic bowing techniques, and desire to develop ensemble-playing skills.

Dallas String Ensemble

The DSE is for string students who have developed facility in bowing techniques, reading music, proficiency in playing in third position and using vibrato.

Sinfonietta

The Sinfonietta is an ensemble for strings only. It is an intermediate to advanced level orchestra designed to explore challenging string literature.

Wind Symphony

The Wind Symphony is composed of 55-60 wind, brass, and percussion players. The group will perform a variety of finest literature composed specifically for wind ensemble.

Flute Choir

The Flute choir is composed of 10-14 flutists and utilizes all the instruments in the flute family including piccolo, alto flute and bass flute.

Clarinet Choir

The clarinet choir is composed of 10-14 clarinetists and utilizes all instruments in the clarinet family.

GDYO Jazz

The GDYO Jazz Program consists of a 15-member Jazz Orchestra and a 5-7-member Jazz Combo. The program includes instruction in instrumental techniques, improvisation, music theory, music history, composition, musician etiquette and how to function in the music business. The focus of the program is excellence in jazz music education and performance.

Philharmonic Orchestra

This orchestra is an advanced introduction to the full-sized symphony orchestra. The presence of the woodwinds, brass and percussion makes possible the performance of a wide repertoire of symphonic music.

Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra

The most advanced of the GDYO ensembles performs the same symphonic works played by professional orchestras throughout the world.

Facilities

Sammons Center for the Arts

The GDYO's permanent home, administrative office, and rehearsal halls are located in the Sammons Center for the Arts. Facilities, which are shared with other arts organizations, include a full kitchen and commons area, a large conference room, the 140-seat Kurth Recital Hall, and the spacious Meadows Hall.

UNT

The Wind Symphony rehearse on the Campus of the University of North Texas. Rehearsal locations alternate between the Murchison Performing Arts complex and the Music Building.

Willowbend Church

GDYO Jazz and the Flute choir rehearse at Willowbend Church in Plano.

Parking

Parking at the Sammons Center is always challenging. There is an overflow parking lot on Harry Hines under the tollway bridge (at intersection of Houston Street and Harry Hines). We strongly encourage carpooling. Please park only in marked spaces, never double-park.

Parking at UNT and Willowbend is usually not a problem, but please check the parking signs.

How We Keep You Informed.....

1. Email

Email is our main method of communication between rehearsals – Please let us know of any changes in your email address.

Please add our emails to your address book – to get past your spam filter

Patrick Herring:	<u>patrick@gdyo.org</u>
Matt Richards:	<u>matt@gdyo.org</u>
Cathy Hernandez:	<u>cathy@gdyo.org</u>
Yurie Iwasaki:	<u>yurie@gdyo.org</u>

Weekly e-newsletter: A weekly newsletter is sent each week with upcoming information you need to know. This will come from newsletter@gdyo.org

2. Website

Our website is: www.gdyo.org

The student Log-in is the best source of information. Schedules, Concert information, seating auditions, weekly updates, etc are all posted there.

The password for each group:

<u>Ensemble</u>	<u>Password</u>
GDYO	gdyo
Wind Symphony	ws
Philharmonic	ph
GDYO Jazz	jazz
Flute Choir	fc
Clarinet Choir	cc
Sinfonietta	si
DSE	dse
YPO	ypo

3. Postal and phone:

Home Address and Phone: You will occasionally receive letters and important information via the postal service. It is very important to keep your address and phone numbers current with our office to avoid any problems.

In Case of Emergency

On rare occasions, rehearsals or concerts may be cancelled due to emergency situations (flooding, weather, etc.). **Any decision to cancel an event will NOT be made until the day of the event.**

How to find out if an event has been cancelled:

1. Check your email. Emails will be sent to the newsletter distribution list
2. Check the website: we will post the event status on the front page
3. Facebook and Twitter will also be updated.

Use your discretion: If you feel like the road conditions in your area are unsafe—PLEASE DO NOT TAKE A CHANCE. With students coming from so far away, it is impossible for us to know travel conditions in

every member's area. Missed rehearsals due to serious inclement weather (ice, flooding) will be excused. Please contact the Director of Operations.

Rehearsal

Location and Time

YPO - Sammons Center for the Arts 11:00-1:00 pm
DSE - Sammons Center for the Arts 3:30-5:30 pm
Sinfonietta – Sammons Center for the Arts 1:00-3:00 pm
Philharmonic – Sammons Center for the Arts 1:30-4:00
Wind Symphony – UNT 1:00 – 4:00
GDYO - Sammons Center for the Arts 5:00-8:30
Clarinet Choir – sammons Center for the Arts 6:00-8:00 pm
Flute Choir – Willow bend church 2:30 – 4:30
Jazz Combo - Willow bend church 2:00 – 4:00
Jazz Orchestra - Willow bend church 4:30 – 6:30

Sign – in:

Each student will sign-in before rehearsal begins in order to track absences and late arrivals. Sign-in sheets will be located in proximity to the rehearsal space.

What is expected:

Students are expected to be in their seats, ready to play when rehearsal begins.

Warm-up before rehearsal begins

Bring:

A pencil

Music folder and music

Any support equipment (extra strings, mutes, rockstops, rosin, reeds, mouthpiece mallets, etc.)

No food, beverages, chewing gum, laser pointers, or video games are allowed in the rehearsal rooms; electronic devices must be turned off during rehearsal.

Withdrawal

Ensemble members are expected to make a full season commitment. Students who must withdraw during the season are required to notify the office in writing. **Please note that there is no refund of tuition if a student withdraws after the season has begun.** This information is in the contract each participant signs before enrolling into the GDYO program.

Percussionists

You are required to arrive early in order to set up before rehearsal begins. (at least 20 minutes); Put all equipment away in an orderly fashion. (Philharmonic puts everything away GDYO does not need; a list will be provided) You will also be responsible for helping un-load and re-load the truck before and after concerts.

Attendance Policy.....

Being a member of a musical ensemble is not only a major commitment, but also a responsibility to yourself, other members of the ensemble, and the conductor's rehearsal plans. Students should give this commitment the highest priority.

Please refer to ensemble page for specifics

Musical Expectations

All members are expected to practice their music at home between Sunday rehearsals.

Challenging passages should be worked on in lessons with private instructors.

Listening is an important part of preparation. If possible, students should obtain recordings of the pieces they are performing. If available, conductors will provide mp3 on the webpage

Seating Auditions

Please refer to your master schedule for dates. Only string players perform seating auditions.

Wind and Percussion parts are assigned by the conductors.

These auditions take place during the regular rehearsal times and in the regular locations.

Seating auditions determine seating placement at concerts.

Students generally leave rehearsal two at a time to go to their audition location (near the rehearsal space). Once auditions are complete, students resume their spot in the regular rehearsal. Seating auditions generally take about five minutes per student.

Seating excerpts are given at the discretion of the conductor. If excerpts are given, they will be posted on the website. Excerpts will be available in the member log-in section and posted under the actual audition date.

Are you going to be absent on a seating audition day?

See your ensembles page for details.

Concerto Competitions

The GDYO, Wind Symphony and Philharmonic each hold an annual concerto competition. This competition is only open to members of that ensemble. It is optional and requires no participation fee. Students are required to provide their own accompanist for the competition. Information will be posted on the web in advance of each competition, including rules, dates and competition times and location

Music and Instruments

Music/folders

Folders and sheet music will be provided for each student at the first rehearsal.

After each concert students will be asked to return their folders in order to receive new music at the following rehearsal.

Original music and black concert folios are distributed members of the Wind Symphony and GDYO. If folders or music are lost or damaged, students must pay for replacements.

Instruments

(7) A clarinets, (2) piccolos, (1) English horn, (1) contra bassoon (3) C Trumpets and (4) Horn Stop Mutes are available to members of the GDYO and Philharmonic if the instruments are called for in the repertoire.

Students who borrow instruments will be held responsible for the upkeep of the instrument.

All problems should be reported to the Orchestra Manager immediately. Failure to maintain the instrument, loss or damage will result in a maintenance or replacement fee.

Fees/Tuition

Tuition is due by the first day of rehearsal. The \$50 deposit that you paid when you returned your participation contract will be applied toward your tuition. Financial aid applications are available upon request. Partial to full scholarships are awarded based solely upon financial need. Please refer to your acceptance letter/website for tuition amount

Non-payment policy

If a student's tuition has not been paid in full, or have not communicated with the GDYO staff in order to set up a payment plan by the first concert of the season, this student will not be allowed to perform.

Continuing non-payment after this concert and or continued non-communication may result in the dismissal of the student from the program.

Concert Information

Concert Tickets: Prices, Venues, Times and Dates

ALL concert events are ticketed. Large group or educational discounts are available on a case-by-case basis for all ticketed events. Please call the office for details.

Ticket Sales Schedule

We accept cash, check, and major credit cards

Tickets are available online (www.gdyo.org/tickets) and at the GDYO office and at the door the day of the concert. *

Tickets for GDYO's flagship ensemble are available for purchase at any time.

Tickets for all other ensembles will be on sale three weeks before the concert date. Please see your ensembles individual calendar for complete schedule

All students in the GDYO program can attend the concert of any other ensemble for only \$2. These tickets are available online as GDYO STUDENT TICKETS

Please note that these tickets are only for use by the student in question. We are asking the \$2 just to cover the ticket fees we are charged by the hall/ticketing company.

*Some Concert tickets are only available through outside venues. Links will be provided on the website for these events.

Concert schedule

Please refer to your master schedule for concert dates

Concert Information Sheets

Two weeks before each concert, concert information sheets are posted on the website in the member login. These sheets contain information about dress rehearsal, location, maps, tickets and more.

Concert Attire

See ensembles page in student area

GDYO Parents Guild

The GDYO Parents Guild provides families and friends of GDYO the opportunity to become involved in the many different areas of the organization. Activities include organizing fund-raising projects, selling recordings and photos, planning special social events, providing snacks during breaks, and providing many more services. The Guild has a paramount role in supporting the GDYO organization with its fund-raising projects--which generate revenue allocated for scholarships, the purchase of equipment for the orchestras, and tour funding.

Recordings

Most concerts are recorded. Copies of these recordings will be made available in the Student area of the website. Parents are not allowed to make their own recordings or videos of the concerts for copyright reasons.

Lost and Found

The GDYO is not responsible for items lost during GDYO events. Please keep track of your own belongings at all times and label items when possible. Please turn in found items to the GDYO office, where we keep a lost and found box. If you believe you have lost an item, please talk to a staff member.

Private Lessons

Members of the Greater Dallas Youth Orchestras are expected to take private lessons for their instrument. If a student does not have a private teacher, GDYO is happy to provide a list of teachers for your instrument.

School Music Program

The GDYO expects students to be enrolled in their school music program if one is available. The GDYO ensembles are meant to enhance, not replace the school music program. The school music program provides daily instruction, opportunities for leadership, and teaches group and community cooperation.