



# *Gemini Youth Orchestras*

2016/2017 Season

Member Handbook

# Table of Contents

	<u>Page</u>
Introduction	3
Organizational Structure, Staff and Management	5
Communications	6
The Audition Process	7
Audition for Membership; Musical Qualifications; Audition Preparation; Inter-Orchestra Auditions	
Policies for Orchestra Members	9
Attendance; Code of Conduct; Instruments and Equipment; Seating and Evaluation	
Rehearsals	14
Location; General Rehearsal Schedule; Arrival and Preparation; Cancellations	
Concerts	16
Information, Policies and Notices; Concert Attire; Concert Procedure	
Tuitions and Fees	17
Scholarships and Awards	18
Donations	18
Consent to Use of Photographic Images and Other Media	19



# *Introduction*

The Gemini Youth Orchestras (“GYO”) instrumental music program provides an environment in which talented young musicians can improve their skills and experience the realities and rewards of quality performance. Students in the program have the opportunity to learn and perform classical and contemporary repertoire, to work with and perform under conservatory-trained professionals and to enjoy performing alongside active professional musicians and soloists.

This handbook was designed to provide our members with guidelines, policies, and procedures that will help you to get the most out of your orchestral experience. Please read the handbook carefully. All GYO members are expected to abide by the policies and procedures outlined here.

Gemini’s student musicians come from public, private, and parochial schools across Long Island. Musicians are auditioned and accepted into the program regardless of financial circumstances. Gemini sponsors scholarships to ensure that every accepted student will be able to participate in the program.

Tuition provides only part of the revenue for Gemini. Ticket sales, individual donations, corporate and business contributions, foundation and government grants, and special fundraising projects provide the balance.

Membership in all groups is determined by audition. Students are not re-auditioned each year unless they wish to be considered for participation in a different group; however, they are required to continue their studies throughout each school year and each summer to maintain membership. The GYO program consists of the following ensembles:

## **Gemini Youth Symphony (“GYS”)**

The Gemini Youth Symphony is open to students performing at NYSSMA level 6 through All State. Literature is selected from classic standard repertoire in original editions, which is at once demanding and rewarding for the superior student musician. GYS also performs new compositions and works with professional soloists. Membership is limited to approximately 85 students.

## **Gemini Philharmonia (“Phil”)**

The Gemini Philharmonia is a fully symphonic intermediate preparatory orchestra open to string, wind, and percussion players at NYSSMA levels 5 or 6. The primary musical literature of the Philharmonia consists of standard classic repertoire in original editions. The Philharmonia also occasionally performs new compositions.

## **Gemini Concert Winds (“GCW”)**

The Gemini Concert Winds is comprised of woodwind, brass and percussion students, some of whom also perform in GYS. It is open to musicians performing at NYSSMA levels 5 and 6. GCW

performs both classical and lighter fare, usually in original form. Membership is limited to approximately 50 students.

### **Gemini String Orchestra ("GSO")**

The Gemini String Orchestra introduces students to string ensemble playing with a professional conductor. Young musicians performing at NYSSMA levels 4-5 receive intensive technical instruction and prepare for the more advanced groups. Literature is selected primarily from arrangements, although in some cases original editions are performed. Membership is limited to approximately 65 students.

### **Gemini Repertory Orchestra ("GRO")**

The Gemini Repertory Orchestra is our entry level string - only ensemble designed to introduce young string students to the fundamentals of posture, technique, sound production, and ensemble playing. Smaller than other GYO ensembles, GRO provides musicians with a strong foundation for a lifetime of music making and success in future Gemini orchestras.

### **Student Development**

The Gemini groups are an ordered progression, advancing students as they advance in musical skills across the Gemini Curriculum. The general progression is Repertory to String Orchestra to Philharmonia to Symphony. Initial placement of students is dependent on auditions, taking into account age and prior orchestral experience.



## *Organizational Structure*

Gemini Youth Orchestras is a registered business name of Training Orchestra, Inc., a New York not-for-profit corporation qualified as a charity under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Donations to GYO (not including tuition and tickets) are deductible as charitable contributions for most taxpayers (consult your tax advisor for more information).

GYO is governed by a Board of Directors, a volunteer group elected each June for the succeeding fiscal year beginning July 1. The Board consists of parents of current and former GYO musicians, along with music educators, business leaders, community representatives, and friends. The Board meets about ten times per year. The Board sets general policy and procedures, approves the budget, raises funds, and provides services to the performing groups. An Advisory Board, a non-voting body consisting of members of the arts, education and business communities, is available to assist the Board of Directors.

Parent committees and volunteers provide invaluable support to the organization in areas including fundraising, hospitality, rehearsal and concert operations, and special projects. Parent participation is critical to the survival and success of Gemini and is strongly encouraged.

The administration of the GYO program is carried out by the Executive Director, who is responsible for management and scheduling of rehearsals, auditions and concerts, liaison with other music organizations, and dealing with student problems and issues. The Executive Director is assisted by parent and student volunteers who serve as orchestra managers, rehearsal and concert staff, and assist with mailings and related tasks. The administrative staff of GYO, unlike most youth orchestras, is comprised entirely of volunteers, enabling us to devote our entire budget to music operations.

The artistic staff provides the musical vision for GYO and is responsible for approval of repertoire for all GYO groups and for special projects such as educational outreach and workshops.

### *2016/2017 Staff & Management*

#### **Board of Directors**

Ricardo Garcia, *President*  
Carissa Kretschmer, *Vice President*  
Angela Sandkuhl, *Secretary*  
Bill MacIntosh, *Treasurer*  
Barry Grossman  
Deborah Harris  
Neil Harris  
Nick Harvey  
Achim Kretschmer  
Nora Lee  
Stephanie MacIntosh  
Christine Tarantino

#### **Conductors & Staff**

Harry Marenstein, *Gemini Youth Symphony*  
Matthew Pierce, *Philharmonia*  
Michael Canipe, *Concert Winds*  
Andrew Perea, *String & Repertory Orchestras*  
Kimberly McCrann, *Executive Director*  
Victoria Hong, *Comptroller*

## *Communications*

Whenever possible, we try to communicate with students and their families by e-mail and via the web site, [www.gyo.org](http://www.gyo.org). We need an up-to-date e-mail address for every student and parent or guardian throughout the season. Students and parents should be sure to check their email at least DAILY, as this may be the only timely communication of important announcements.

Any member who does not have access to e-mail on a regular basis should advise the Executive Director so that other means of communication can be arranged.

The Executive Director may be reached at: [director@gyo.org](mailto:director@gyo.org)

Our mailing address is: Gemini Youth Orchestras, PO Box 705, Melville, NY 11747-0705.



# *The Audition Process*

## **Auditions for Membership**

GYO members are selected on the basis of audition only. Yearly entrance auditions are scheduled in May or June, with additional auditions in August or September. All audition dates will be announced on our website. Interested students should email us at [director@gyo.org](mailto:director@gyo.org).

Each applicant must fill out an audition form, provide their most recently completed NYSSMA score and level (if applicable), and be prepared to supply a copy of the student's NYSSMA Evaluation if requested. Applicants will be notified of results by phone or e-mail. Individual auditions may be scheduled during the year if there are openings in the performing groups.

Auditions are adjudicated by qualified conductors or musicians, who determine the result. Adjudicators may ask students to play additional sections from the requested practice repertoire beyond the subsection announced, as well as scales or other pieces not expressly mentioned. In this manner, an adjudicator may more precisely determine seating order. We hope that, regardless of the result of an audition, the adjudicators' comments will help the student in determining areas in which he or she may need work. There is a \$20.00 fee charged for new member as well as inter-orchestra auditions.

## **Musician Qualifications**

All musicians are expected to have private teachers with whom review of Gemini music selections will occur regularly. This is necessary to improve technique between rehearsals and to facilitate work on any musical problems that students may encounter. Students are required to practice their parts with their private teachers. Inadequate preparation for rehearsal may result in suspension of membership. If there is a hardship involved, please email the executive director prior to orientation for that academic year.

All musicians are required to participate in their school's curricular music program, if such a program is available. School music programs are the lifeblood of the arts on Long Island, and GYO and its members support school programs including festivals such as NYSCAME, NMEA, SCMEA, LISFA and NYSSMA. The GYO is intended to enhance and supplement, not to replace these school programs. We make every effort to avoid time conflicts with school programs. Participation in extracurricular school music programs is generally encouraged but not required.

The following qualifications are the **minimum scoring recommendations\*** for each group, and are subject to conductor discretion:

GYS	Completed NYSSMA Level 6 or All-State, scoring an "A+"
Phil	Completed NYSSMA Level 5 or 6, scoring an "A+"
GCW	Completed NYSSMA Level 3-6, generally. Please contact the Director for Concert Winds inquiries.
GSO	Completed NYSSMA Level 4 – 5, scoring Excellent or better

GRO NYSSMA Level 3, scoring Excellent or better, at the discretion of the Conductor

*\* While the NYSSMA exam remains a strong consideration in our audition and placement process, we feel it by no means paints a full or quantifiable picture of our applicants' skills and what is required of them to play in the highly-competitive setting of a youth orchestra. In the case of students who meet or even exceed these NYSSMA recommendations, these scores do not guarantee acceptance and ensemble placement, nor do they preclude students who do not fit into the abovementioned NYSSMA rubric (but possess great potential and other compelling circumstances) from applying. Admission is subject to availability of an opening in the group, and approval of the audition staff.*

### Audition Preparation

Music: NYSSMA solo or other appropriate solo of comparable level. Students should choose a solo with which they are comfortable and confident.

Sight-reading: All students should be prepared to sight-read.

Scales: All students should be prepared to perform scales appropriate to his/her NYSSMA level. Additionally, those **string players auditioning for Philharmonia** should be prepared to play a **three-octave scale** of their choice. **String players auditioning for GYS** should be prepared to play at least **two (2) three-octave scales** of their choice.

Brass and woodwind players will also be expected to demonstrate the ability to transpose when applicable. (GYS only)

Judging is based on technical ability, intonation, rhythmic accuracy, general musicianship and stylistic understanding. When a musician is accepted into the program, seating decisions are based on the same combination of overall musical qualities as well as level of preparation.

### Inter-Orchestra Auditions

Returning Gemini members who wish to be considered for participation in or transfer to a different ensemble must:

- A. Meet all regular requirements for acceptance to that group
- B. Have the permission and agreement of their current group's conductor
- C. Schedule an inter-orchestra audition during the spring or at another time (by permission of the Executive Director and conductor only)
- D. Submit a copy of their current NYSSMA evaluation

Changes from one group to another are at the discretion of the conducting staff and are subject to availability of positions.

# *Policies for Orchestra Members*

## **Attendance**

### **Absences**

All Gemini members are permitted **two** (2) rehearsal absences (only one of which may be an unexcused absence) per concert series, **not to exceed FIVE** (5) total absences per school year. Excused absences are absences by reason of conflict with school music programs (see below) or illness (with a doctor's note) ONLY. **All other absences are considered unexcused. A parent or guardian must report all absences by email to [director@gyo.org](mailto:director@gyo.org)**

- A student exceeding the permitted absences for a concert series may not be allowed to participate in that concert, may be required to play unseated, or may be asked to re-audition at the discretion of the conductor. Extended absence may subject the student to dismissal from the program with no tuition refund. Exceptions may be granted for extended illness.
- Mandatory school music conflicts include ONLY dress rehearsals and concerts for school music groups, and rehearsals and concerts for sanctioned festivals including NMEA, SCMEA, LISFA, NYSSMA, All-County, All-State, All-Eastern and All-National events. Students should provide documentation of their participation and the dates of these events as soon as they know them.
- **Chronic lateness may be grounds for dismissal.**
- A student is expected to attend rehearsal even if his/her instrument is lost or broken. Replacement instruments can usually be rented from a music store.
- Students are expected to remain for the entire rehearsal unless excused by the conductor or the Executive Director.
- A student who is injured and is unable to play is still expected to attend rehearsal, unless excused by the conductor.
- Involvement in school musicals, including pit bands, is a voluntary activity. Absences for this reason are considered unexcused.
- If a student knows that he or she will miss more than two rehearsals in any concert series, he or she should advise the Executive Director in advance of that concert series so that appropriate arrangements for concert personnel can be made.
- **Concert and soundcheck attendance are mandatory.** Failure to sign in for a concert may be considered an unexcused absence and subject the student to dismissal from GYO without tuition refund. Students are excused from concerts only for illness or a documented mandatory school music conflict. **Mandatory school music conflicts must be communicated with the conductor or the Executive Director at least two months prior to the concert date.** Any other concert absence may result in dismissal from the program with no tuition refund. It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to report all absences.

## Leave of Absence

A request for a leave of absence for personal reasons must be made in writing in advance of the forthcoming concert series. The letter should explain the reason for the leave and the expected duration. Permission for leave status will be granted at the discretion of the Executive Director. A leave of absence will not be granted for a period of the less than the entire rehearsal and concert series. A student will not be granted a tuition refund. A leave of absence cannot be granted for a concert series once rehearsals have commenced.

## Perfect Attendance Pizza Parties

Students in the Youth Symphony, Philharmonia, Concert Winds and String Orchestra who maintain perfect attendance (and students in the Repertory Orchestra who demonstrate exemplary attendance) throughout a concert period will be eligible to attend a pizza party with the artistic staff. Pizza parties fall on the next rehearsal date immediately following a concert period. Repertory and String Orchestra parties take place 5:15-5:45pm, while Concert Winds/Philharmonia/Youth Symphony parties take place at 6:45-7:15pm. Please see the concert calendar for exact dates.

# Code of Conduct

## Behavior

As we create quality musical and educational experiences for each member of the musical community, the safety and well-being of the students in our care is our top priority. As such, it is a reasonable expectation that we require proper standards of behavior at all times and will notify parents of any departures from these standards.

Disruptive, disrespectful, or inattentive behavior at rehearsals, concerts, and any other GYO events is grounds for dismissal. **ALCOHOL, DRUGS, SMOKING, AND ANY ACTIVITY LEGAL OR ILLEGAL THAT PLACES MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY IN HARM'S WAY ARE PROHIBITED BY GYO AND WILL RESULT IN IMMEDIATE DISMISSAL. FOR EVERYONE'S SAFETY AND SECURITY, WE REQUIRE ALL STUDENTS TO REMAIN INSIDE THE BUILDING DURING REHEARSALS AND BREAKS.**

- Standard classroom rules of respect apply towards your conductor and colleagues. Watch and listen carefully throughout the rehearsal.
- NO CELL PHONES MAY BE USED DURING REHEARSAL, EITHER FOR CALLS OR TEXTING. Cell phones should be powered down or left with personal items offstage.
- No talking, horseplay or disruptive behavior is permitted during rehearsals.
- Students should only consume food or drink outside of the rehearsal room and are responsible for disposal in proper receptacles. FOOD IS PERMITTED IN REHEARSAL VENUES ONLY WITH PERMISSION OF STAFF.
- Students should assist when possible in setting up and taking down chairs and music stands in rehearsal areas.
- Do not leave the immediate area of the building during breaks.
- Return to rehearsal promptly after the break.
- Students may leave early only with permission of the conductor or the Executive Director.

## Registration Forms

All members of our musical community, both new and returning, are required to fill out a registration form (either written or online) prior to the first rehearsal. A form will only be considered complete if the emergency contact and medical information is present. For the safety of all, students will not be allowed to participate until their registration form is completed.

## Preparation

An important part of the training of any young musician is the discipline and teamwork required for group musical success. Musicians are expected to practice Gemini music, at home and with their private teacher, in preparation for rehearsals. Failure to prepare for rehearsals degrades the performance of the entire ensemble and may subject the student to re-seating, re-auditioning, or dismissal from the orchestra.

## Sheet Music

- Music will generally be distributed no later than the first rehearsal for each concert series.
- In some cases, GYO will provide PDF copies of practice parts for students, which should be downloaded, copied and practiced prior to the first rehearsal. This requires Acrobat Reader, which is a free download. If any student lacks the capability to download and copy parts, he or she should notify the Executive Director BEFORE the start of the season. Please keep the PDF files on your computer in case of lost or damaged music.
- Photocopied and original music must be returned intact after each concert, if requested by the Executive Director.
- Each musician is to bring his or her own music to every rehearsal so directions from the conductor can be marked in every part.
- Music may be marked only with a #2 lead pencil.
- Members will be charged for the cost of replacing any lost or damaged original music, including music torn, rolled up or cut, and music marked with anything but a #2 pencil.
- If you need to borrow additional music you must sign it out with the Executive Director.

## Instruments and Equipment

### Required Materials, Care and Maintenance

Members are required to provide their own instruments **and a portable music stand**. Instruments should be in excellent condition so that musicians can perform at their peak levels. If requested by the Executive Director or conductor, music stands should be brought to rehearsals. If there is a hardship involved with respect to an instrument, please contact the Executive Director.

**String players** must rehair bows when necessary (or at the request of the conductor) and bring extra strings, a mute, and rosin to each rehearsal. **Cello and bass players** should also bring a floor stop and/or a stool if needed. **GCW, GCO and GYS members** are expected to tune their

own instruments prior to rehearsal. **Wind players** must bring extra reeds of professional quality to every rehearsal.

***Gemini Youth Orchestras is not responsible for the care and safekeeping of instruments owned or rented by participants.*** Students must take great care when transporting instruments to or from rehearsals and concerts; when moving instruments around the stage and rehearsal areas; and when leaving instruments during breaks. Instruments should not be left on seats, music stands, or in areas where they can be dropped or damaged. We recommend that students purchase their own insurance policies for valuable instruments.

### **Instrument Loan**

In cases of unusual instrumentation for a piece being performed or serious financial hardship, GYO may be able to provide members with instruments that are loaned to the program. A loan agreement must be signed by the member and a parent or guardian, who will be responsible for the care and safekeeping of the instrument.

## **Seating and Evaluation**

### **Placement Auditions**

Admission to Gemini Youth Orchestras is by audition only, and is the sole discretion of the auditioning staff. Admission to GYO may be denied based on any number of factors, including technical or other musical deficiencies, but also by reason of unavailability of positions within our groups. On request, auditioning students may receive analysis and recommendations of our auditioning staff. Musicians are placed in a group based on the quality of their auditions, which are generally held in late spring but may be arranged during the summer or in early September. Members are expected to perform in their assigned group for the entire year; there are no mid-year promotions except in unusual circumstances and must be ascertained first by the artistic staff and then approved by the Executive Director.

### **Seating Policy**

GYO has a general seating policy for all groups. Seating is solely based on the quality of the seating audition and the needs of the ensemble, and not on age, seniority, or any other extraneous factor. Seating in each ensemble is at the sole discretion of the ensemble's conductor, in consultation with additional artistic staff as necessary, and any/all seating decisions are final. Students will be given ample notice of upcoming seating auditions and requirements. Seating auditions cannot generally be rescheduled. Seating auditions will not take place before every concert because of time constraints. Players missing seating auditions may participate in concerts but will be considered unseated. Program personnel listings are alphabetical after the principal player(s).

Principal players are chosen for all sections, unless the conductor decides otherwise. Assistant principals may also be designated for large sections. Section placement will be based on the results of seating auditions, on the needs of the concert repertoire, and on the overall sound of the group.

At the discretion of the conductor, section string players, with the exception of principal stands, may be rotated front to back. Many professional and collegiate ensembles do this in order to give all string players the opportunity to be more “intimately” involved with the conductor and the rehearsal process. Seating within sections is also based on creating the very best possible section, not a reflection on an individual’s personal accomplishment as a player. Because the brass and winds often have solo parts in orchestral writing, the conductor will constantly monitor performance quality, and placement will reflect the appropriateness of the particular part for the individual’s strengths. All placements are at the discretion of the conductor.



### **Principal Player Responsibilities**

The principal players assume leadership positions in any orchestra, and are role models for other players. Regardless of technical ability, the failure of a principal player to abide by GYO attendance policy or other policies, or the overall failure to behave as a section leader, may result in his or her relocation in position at the discretion of the conductor.

### **An Important Note About Seating**

The adventure of playing in an elite youth orchestra program is one of personal development. Seating is only one measure of this process, and we do not think it is the most important one. As mentioned above, string positioning is important to the overall sound and blend of an orchestra, while wind seating enables players to perform parts best gauged to their abilities. However, the most important aspects of the orchestra experience are training and self-improvement, to be a member of a group striving for excellence, and to enjoy the challenge. Every member of our orchestra is equally important to us, and everyone should be measured by his or her own progress. Outside interference in the seating process undermines the values and professionalism being taught at Gemini and can be destructive to the morale of the student, the ensemble, and the entire program.

# Rehearsals

## Location

All groups will rehearse on Monday evenings at Five Towns College in Dix Hills. For directions to campus, visit [www.ftc.edu](http://www.ftc.edu). Rehearsal evenings or locations may vary when school buildings are closed because of weather or school holidays, and locations may change when the building is unavailable because of school activities. See the Master Rehearsal Schedule (available online at [www.gyo.org](http://www.gyo.org) in August) for specific times and dates.

## The general rehearsal schedule is as follows:

Repertory Orchestra (GRO)	4:30 - 5:30 PM
String Orchestra (GSO)	5:30 - 7:00 PM
Concert Winds (GCW)	5:15 - 7:00 PM
Philharmonia (Phil)	7:00 - 9:00 PM
Youth Symphony (GYS)	7:00 – 9:15 PM

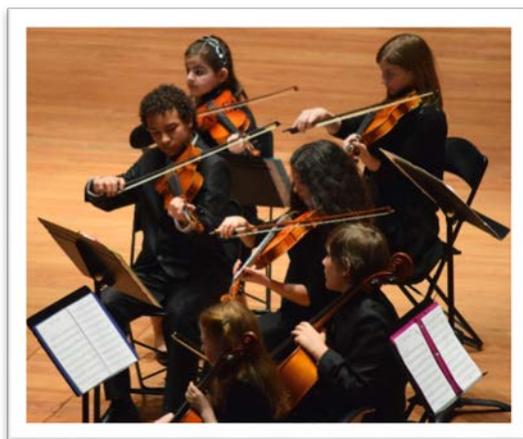
**NOTE:** At the conductors' discretion, there may be no breaks during a rehearsal, so students should be prepared to perform for the entire rehearsal period. Please check the website and your emails daily for up-to-date rehearsal information.

## Arrival and Preparation

Students should arrive fifteen minutes before the start of rehearsal to sign in, warm up and tune their instruments. Please bring any necessary accessories, a pencil for marking music (NO pens or ink), and a folding music stand (if requested). Any student who does not sign in will be considered as absent without an excuse.

## Cancellation of Rehearsals

Cancellations for inclement weather or other emergency will be at the discretion of the Executive Director or the Board President. Every effort will be made to notify members via the website and/or email of any cancellation. Please do not call GYO personnel at home. Please be sure we have an up-to-date email address for you at all times, and check your email frequently.



## Parking

GYO members, families and their guests are required to observe and remain responsible for staying educated about any and all parking regulations in force on campus at the time of their visit. At the time of handbook printing, parking is available in the main lot only, and drop-off is allowed in the area east of "the loop":

Permitted Vehicular Areas, as of August 2016 (*may be subject to change*)



**Areas where parking is not permitted includes but is not limited to** "the loop", other areas on campus, fire lanes, and the surrounding, adjacent public and private roads.

## Campus Security- Public Safety

In addition to the security guard stationed at the entrance to the College, the Public Safety Office is located in Room 302 in the Main Building 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. They may be contacted at (631) 656-2196.

# Concerts

## Information, Policies and Notices

Concert information will be posted on the Website approximately two weeks prior to each concert. There is a dress rehearsal either on the concert date or during the week prior to each concert.

**Concert and soundcheck attendance is mandatory.** Failure to sign in for a concert may be considered an unexcused absence.

Students are expected to be present throughout the concert in which they perform. In many cases, seats will be available so that students may watch the other groups perform. Gemini is a team. A show of support and appreciation for other groups is a vital part of the GYO program.

No videotaping is allowed at concerts. It can distract the musicians and disturb other audience members. Certain venues strictly prohibit videotaping and audience members may be asked to leave if they violate the policies of the concert hall.

## Concert Attire

**Symphony, Philharmonia and Concert Winds:** boys must wear a tuxedo jacket, black tuxedo pants, white shirt, black bow tie, black socks and black dress shoes.

**String and Repertory Orchestras:** boys may substitute a black jacket and black pants for the tuxedo jacket and pants. For Alice Tully Hall, tuxedos will be required for boys in all groups.

**All groups:** girls must wear either a long black skirt or black dress pants with black long or  $\frac{3}{4}$  sleeved blouse, or a black long-sleeved full-length dress; black stockings and black dress shoes. NO tight pants, black jeans, white socks, tank tops or short skirts permitted.

Students who arrive improperly dressed will not be allowed to perform. Note that outdoor or announced informal concerts will not require formal concert attire. Attire for these event will be announced.

## Concert Procedures

1. The concertmaster will enter after the orchestra is seated and the house lights are dimmed. He or she will bow to the audience and then give the signal to tune.
2. When the conductor comes on stage for the first time, the entire orchestra will stand. The orchestra will not stand when the conductor returns between pieces.
3. The conductor will signal when the orchestra (or any members) should stand to acknowledge applause. Do not leave the stage until all applause has ended and the conductor and soloist (if any) have exited.

## *Tuition & Fees*

- All tuition payments are due at as announced prior to the following season to secure student positions. Your cooperation in paying in a timely manner is greatly appreciated.
- Highly-qualified wind, brass and percussion students who are accepted for the Philharmonia or Youth Symphony as well as Concert Winds need only pay the tuition for the orchestra to which they are assigned. The tuition for the Concert Winds ensemble is waived.
- Tuition will generally not be billed on a periodic or installment basis. If you have difficulty making payment in a timely manner, please contact the Executive Director.
- Scholarships are available for students who need financial assistance in order to participate in the program. When you receive your invoice, please advise the Executive Director or the Board President that you wish to apply for a scholarship. The procedure is simple and confidential. The Board of Directors determines eligibility for and amount of scholarships.
- There will be a \$20.00 fee for any returned checks.
- Family discount: two participating students from a single family will each receive a 10% tuition discount. Families with three or more students will receive a 25% discount on tuition for each child.
- Tuition deposits and/or tuition are non-refundable after registration except in cases of prolonged illness.

### **TUITION RATES: 2016 - 2017**

GYS (Symphony)	\$559.00
Phil (Philharmonia)	\$510.00
GCW (Winds)	\$455.00
GSO (String Orchestra)	\$485.00
GRO (Repertory)	\$295.00

### **Fees**

Auditions \$20.00

Returned check \$20.00

### **Tickets**

Ticket prices are determined by concert venue and Gemini expenses.

# *Scholarships and Awards*

GYO has several named "chairs" for outstanding string and wind students. Each Chair is awarded a financial stipend or scholarship in an amount determined by the Board of Directors. Recipients of these awards demonstrate talent, leadership and dedication, and are named, in the sole discretion of the Music Director and the Board of Directors. The chairs are as follows:

Paul Rudoff Chair – violin

Vincent Liota Chair – viola or other string student

Patricia Rudoff Chair – string student

Matthew Sunshine Memorial Chair – wind or brass student

In addition, GYO has in recent years awarded college scholarships to graduating seniors who have been members of GYO for three or more years. These scholarships are awarded in the sole discretion of the Board of Directors, and are subject to the availability of funds. The amounts awarded, if any, and criteria for the awards may also vary. Additional scholarships and awards will be offered as available.

## **Donations**

GYO a recognized charitable organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Donations to GYO are tax-deductible as allowed by law. The Friends of Gemini program allows our families and friends a convenient way to support GYO at any level they can afford. Friends of Gemini are acknowledged in concert programs when possible. All donors are mentioned in GYO programs.

- ♪ Booster \$25 - 49
- ♪ Supporter \$50 - 99
- ♪ Patron \$100 - 249
- ♪ Benefactor \$250 - 399
- ♪ Founder \$400 - 599
- ♪ Angel \$600 - 999
- ♪ Conductor's Circle \$1000 - up

Donations may also be made to sponsor a scholarship, to fund a music chair, to honor a special person or to mark a memorable achievement. Contact the Executive Director or Board President, at to discuss special donations.

To become a Friend of Gemini, please send your contribution to the address below. Be sure to tell us how you wish to be listed in the program. (Checks should be made payable to Gemini Youth Orchestras Gemini Youth Orchestras Attention: Friends of Gemini, PO Box 705, Melville, NY 11747-0705.

# *Consent to Use of Photographic Images & Other Media*

Participation in the Gemini Youth Orchestras grants our organization unrestricted license to use any recordings, images and/or videos for educational and promotional purposes via social media and any other distribution channels, both now and in the future. Registration as a student and attendance at or participation in concerts, classes and other Gemini Youth Orchestra activities constitutes agreement between GYO and students, their families, and any guests regarding the above policy.

Gemini respects the privacy of individualized (less than three students present) student photos or music performances, and these will not be reproduced nor will student names be published where parents have contacted GYO as such. The exception to our three-student policy would be students performing solos or small groups, or receiving other forms of recognition at GYO events. In such cases, those students and families understand that their likeness and performance may be used in the same capacity as group images.

The responsibility to limit exposure of any student via such recordings, images, and/or videos lies solely with the student and the family. Such students should not accept solos, nor should they participate in chamber or small performance groups. They may also request 'interior' seating in rehearsals and concerts.

This policy does not apply to photos or recordings taken and published by parents or media organizations outside the control of GYO. In particular, photographs taken and published of any student participating in activities to which the general public is given open access, such as concerts and open rehearsals is not restricted by this policy.



Handbook revised: 8/16  
Photo Credits: Nora Lee, Bill MacIntosh