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OKYO performances were made possible in part by Oklahoma Arts Sector ARPA Grants, an investment made by leaders of the State of Oklahoma, led by the Oklahoma Arts Council in partnership with Allied Arts OKC and Arts Alliance Tulsa.

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Need to visit our office? To plan your visit, [click here](#) and scroll to the bottom of the page.

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Richard and Glenna Tanenbaum are proud to support the Oklahoma Youth Orchestras in their efforts to provide opportunities for Oklahoma youths seeking to pursue their passion for musical excellence!

We extend our congratulations to all the students and wish them a sensational season!



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Oklahoma Youth Orchestras is proud to present this program for your added enjoyment of our concerts this season.

For more information about the Oklahoma Youth Orchestras program, please visit [okyomusic.org](http://okyomusic.org)

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# OUR STORY

DEVELOPING EXCELLENCE IN EVERY STUDENT

**Oklahoma Youth Orchestras (OKYO)** prides itself on offering arts education programs to meet the needs of young musicians in elementary through high school with ensembles designed for all abilities, providing a fun, dynamic, and supportive environment where they are inspired to pursue their passion for music.

Founded in 1977, OKYO is the largest youth orchestra program in the state, and it has been celebrated for its dedication to the arts and arts education. It provides advanced music education and performance opportunities to young musicians in the diverse communities in Oklahoma under the direction of distinguished music educators. Throughout its 48 year history, OKYO has produced many talented musicians, conductors, performers, educators, business and community leaders, and successful professionals in a variety of fields across the country.

Oklahoma Youth Orchestras is a non-profit organization that receives financial support from a combination of sources including membership dues, concert admission, grants, sponsorships and individual contributions.

**Oklahoma Youth Orchestras** features 12 ensembles and a summer camp that serve a diverse student body of over 400 young musicians from all over the metro. We foster creativity, teamwork and leadership through a strong commitment to excellence in music.

Oklahoma Youth Orchestra (OYO)  
Oklahoma Youth Philharmonic (OYP)  
Oklahoma Youth Winds (OYW)  
Percussion Ensemble  
Chamber Orchestra  
Sinfonia  
Festival Strings Edmond  
Festival Strings Norman  
Festival Strings Oklahoma City  
Festival Winds  
Studio Rockestra (on pause for 2025-2026 season)  
Summer Symphony Strings Camp



## OUR MISSION

Through quality instrumental music education programs for students and accessible cultural offerings for the community, Oklahoma Youth Orchestras provides opportunities for artistic excellence to central and western Oklahoma.

Learn more about **OKYO**, its ensembles, or how you can become involved at [okyomusic.org](http://okyomusic.org)



Leading, cultivating, and amplifying the transformative power of the arts for all Oklahomans and their communities.

Go to [arts.ok.gov](http://arts.ok.gov) to learn how our grants and programs cultivate and support the arts in communities and schools across Oklahoma.

*The Oklahoma Arts Council is an agency of state government.*



 [arts.ok.gov](http://arts.ok.gov)



Allied Arts proudly partners with Oklahoma Youth Orchestras to inspire the next generation of musicians and leaders. Through exceptional instruction and performance opportunities, OKYO cultivates artistic excellence while nurturing creativity, confidence and community impact among its students.



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Beth Boren, Treasurer  
Joe Rodano, Immediate Past Chair

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Christopher Bishop  
Matthew Craig  
Jeanne Jackson  
Rachel Poe  
Erin Ripka  
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Peggy Kahre  
Kim Lowe  
Peter Markes  
Jerry Messick  
Alexander Mickelthwate

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Elina Ji	Kevlin Xie

[Click to learn more about our Board and Advisory Council Members](#)

[Click to learn more about our Student Leadership Council](#)

If you are interested in joining this talented group of OKYO advocates, please contact Executive Director Kris Markes at [kris@okyomusic.org](mailto:kris@okyomusic.org)



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## THE ARTISTIC & ADMINISTRATIVE TEAMS

### ARTISTIC TEAM



[Dr. Clifton Evans](#)

Artistic Director, Oklahoma Youth Orchestras  
&  
Conductor, Oklahoma Youth Orchestra



[Janey Akagha](#)

Conductor,  
Festival Winds



[Gena Alexander](#)

Conductor,  
Festival Strings  
Edmond



[Andrew Barrington](#)

Coach,  
Oklahoma Youth  
Philharmonic  
Winds & Brass



[Hope Bruening](#)

Coach,  
Young Strings



[Michael Corts](#)

Percussion  
Conductor



[Kristin Geist](#)

Conductor,  
Chamber Orchestra  
&  
Festival Strings OKC



[Jamee Hale](#)

Coach,  
Festival Winds



[Ashleigh Holmes](#)

Percussion  
Coordinator



[Dr. Matthew Mailman](#)

Conductor,  
Oklahoma  
Youth Winds



[Peter Markes](#)

OYP Conducting  
Candidate &  
Artistic Director,  
Summer Symphony  
Strings Camp



[Courtney Monk](#)

Conductor,  
Sinfonia



[Sarah Neely](#)

Associate  
Conductor,  
Oklahoma  
Youth Winds



[Mark Osborn](#)

Conductor,  
Festival Strings  
Norman



[Adam Whoolery](#)

Percussion  
Coordinator

### ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM



[Kris Markes](#)

Executive  
Director



[Katie Ashford](#)

Marketing  
& Social Media  
Coordinator



[Maria Marcos](#)

Program  
Director



[Francisco Venegas](#)

Program Manager  
Concerts  
& Logistics



[Emily Harl](#)

Intern



[Ahmari Sango](#)

Intern

To learn  
more about our  
**Artistic Team**  
and  
**Administrative  
Team**  
members, please  
click  
on their names  
to read their  
biographies.



## The Summer Symphony Strings Camp (SSSC)

is a weekday commuter day camp that takes place in the heart of downtown OKC at John Rex Charter School

**Who can attend?** SSSC is open to students in grades 5 through 8 (in the 2025-2026 school year) who have been playing for at least one year and can read music. Best of all, NO audition is required!

**What do we do each day?** Students participate in orchestra rehearsals and have special coaching time with each section, all led by some of the metro area's best music educators. In addition, we take advantage of our unique downtown location and participate in daily "Arts Experience" field trips.

**What makes SSSC different from other string camps?** Our camp is a more comprehensive arts camp, giving students the opportunity to experience many styles of music and other art forms in our community. In 2025, campers enjoyed recital hour performances from award-winning fiddle player Kyle Dillingham, Stringsmen OKC (a string quartet specializing in modern and popular music), plus our very own Camp Artistic Director Peter Markes. Daily field trips around downtown, included guided tours of OKCMOA, Paycom Center, backstage of Civic Center Music Hall, and an immersive introductory movement class presented by the OKC Ballet.

Under the direction of Camp Artistic Director and 2014 Oklahoma Teacher of the Year, Peter Markes, the week concludes on Friday with a Camp Closing Ceremonies Concert for friends and family.

**Mark your calendars for the 2026  
Summer Symphony String Camp: June 15-19!**  
[Click here to learn more about this fun learning adventure!](#)



## Making a **difference** by supporting our community

American Fidelity and our family of companies were founded on the idea of helping others and giving back to our community.

The American Fidelity Foundation proudly supports the Oklahoma Youth Orchestras.

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a different opinion



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Oklahoma Youth Orchestra is supported by the Everett Family Affiliated Fund, a fund of the Oklahoma City Community Foundation.

Together, we strive to make the greatest impact in our community.

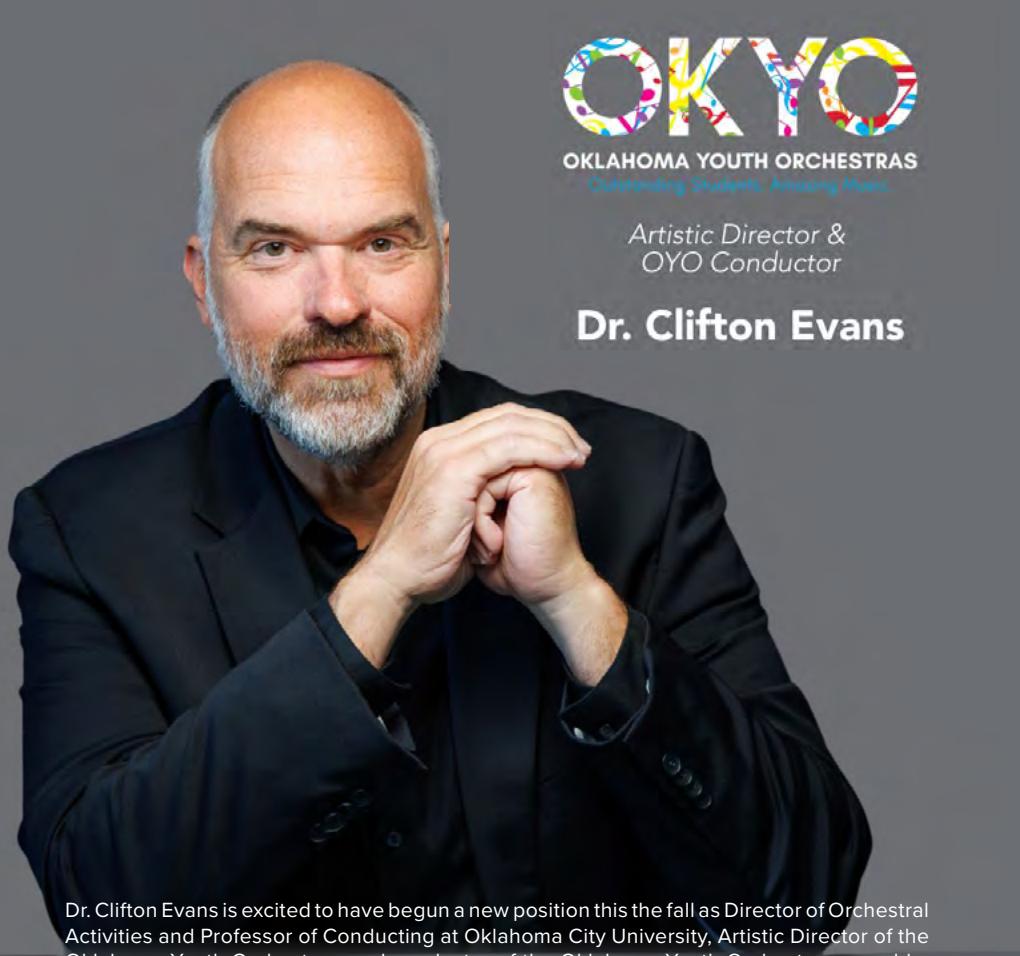
Learn more at [occf.org](http://occf.org)

 OKLAHOMA CITY  
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



# PLEASE HELP US WELCOME DR. EVANS

# FROM OUR ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Dr. Clifton Evans is excited to have begun a new position this the fall as Director of Orchestral Activities and Professor of Conducting at Oklahoma City University, Artistic Director of the Oklahoma Youth Orchestras, and conductor of the Oklahoma Youth Orchestra ensemble. Dr. Evans has enjoyed a conducting career that has taken him to Hong Kong, England, China, Austria, the Czech Republic, and throughout the United States. Highly sought after as both a clinician and lecturer, Dr. Evans has conducted numerous Honor Orchestras and Bands and given multiple lectures on conducting and rehearsal technique.

In addition to his duties as a professor, Dr. Evans maintains an active schedule at festivals, conventions, and workshops. He has served as a presenter multiple times for the Texas Orchestra Directors Association annual convention and has recently become involved with their "Winter Clinic" program, a new workshop focusing specifically on rehearsal technique.

Dr. Evans' previous positions include Director of Orchestras at the University of Texas at Arlington, Artistic Director of the Arlington Youth Symphony, Director of Orchestras and Chamber Music for the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts in Houston, Music Director for the Gilbert and Sullivan Society of Houston, Conductor for the Houston Youth Symphony, and Music Director and Conductor of the Houston Civic Symphony.

He and his wife, Christy, look forward to getting immersed in their new Oklahoma home.

Dear Oklahoma Youth Orchestras Community,

What an extraordinary privilege it is to address you as the newly appointed Artistic Director of the Oklahoma Youth Orchestras in my inaugural season! I am deeply grateful for your unwavering support, which has helped OKYO flourish into the remarkable organization it is today, proudly serving over 400 of Oklahoma's finest student musicians.

The recent OYO tour to Europe—visiting the historic musical cities of Vienna, Salzburg, and Prague—was nothing short of life-changing for our students. Beyond experiencing the breathtaking sights and rich cultural heritage of these iconic places, our students performed spellbinding concerts in some of Europe's most iconic venues. It was truly a once-in-a-lifetime moment, and I believe I can speak for all those who participated by expressing our profound gratitude for such an experience!

Since arriving in Oklahoma from my native Texas, I have been deeply inspired by the dedication to excellence shown every week by our talented students, supportive families, and passionate staff. Your collective commitment and energy fuels these life-changing moments that shape not only our young musicians' lives, but also the future of our art. Thank you for being part of this vibrant community!

Here's to an unforgettable season filled with music, inspired growth, and shared joy. Enjoy the performance!

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clifton Evans".

**Dr. Clifton Evans**  
Artistic Director





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## 2025-26 SEASON PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Season Presenting Concert Sponsor: Richard & Glenna Tanenbaum

### FALL CONCERT SERIES

#### SEASON OPENING CONCERT

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2025 - 4:00PM

Oklahoma City Community College - Performing Arts Theatre  
7777 S. May Ave, Oklahoma City

*With performances by Percussion Ensemble, Sinfonia, Chamber Orchestra, OYP Strings and OYO*

#### FESTIVALS SHOWCASE

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2025 - 7:30PM

Oklahoma City University - Wanda L. Bass School of Music - Petree Recital Hall  
2501 N. Blackwelder, Oklahoma City

*With performances by Festival Winds and Festival Strings*

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### WE NEED YOU!

#### Volunteer your time and talents with OKYO:

From Monday night rehearsal check-in to concert and event support,  
we greatly appreciate the friends of OKYO who volunteer!

If you would like to be notified of opportunities to help us  
please fill out this [form](#). We also recommend checking out upcoming  
events on our [Rehearsal and Performance Calendar](#).

### WINTER CONCERT SERIES

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2026 - 4:00PM

Oklahoma City Community College - Performing Arts Theatre  
7777 S. May Ave, Oklahoma City

*OYO Featuring Concerto Competition Winners  
with performances by OYW, OYP and Percussion Ensemble*

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2026 - 12:00PM\*

Oklahoma City University - Wanda L. Bass School of Music - Petree Recital Hall  
2501 N. Blackwelder, Oklahoma City

*With performances by Sinfonia and Chamber Orchestra  
\*Workshop for students begins at 9:30AM*

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SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2026 TIME TBD

Oklahoma City University - Wanda L. Bass School of Music - Petree Recital Hall  
2501 N. Blackwelder, Oklahoma City

*With performances by Festival Winds and Festival Strings*

### SPRING CONCERT SERIES

#### SEASON FINALE CONCERTS

SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2026 TIME TBD

Oklahoma City Community College - Performing Arts Theatre  
7777 S. May Ave, Oklahoma City

*With performances by Festival Winds, Festival Strings, and OYO*

SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2026 TIME TBD

Oklahoma City Community College - Performing Arts Theatre  
7777 S. May Ave, Oklahoma City

*With performances by Sinfonia, Chamber Orchestra, OYP and OYW*

## Thank You for Making Our 2025 Campaign A Great Success!

We are pleased to announce, thanks to the generosity of the Ad Astra Foundation, members of the Board of Directors and the OKYO Advisory Council, contributions made to support OKYO during our spring *Play It Forward*™ Campaign were matched one-to-one, providing DOUBLE the impact on our programs.

Thanks to each of you who contributed and helped us exceed our goal.



You can help outstanding students make amazing music for the 2025-26 season with a tax deductible gift.

Click [HERE](#) to learn more.

### PLAY IT FORWARD™

PLAY IT FORWARD™ is a registered trademark of the Oklahoma Youth Orchestras.

Welcome to the 2025-26 season of Oklahoma Youth Orchestras! As Chair of the Board of Directors, and as an alumnus of OKYO, I'm especially proud to help usher in this new chapter for our organization.

We are thrilled to welcome Dr. Clifton Evans as OKYO's new Artistic Director. A nationally respected conductor and educator, Dr. Evans brings a wealth of experience from across the U.S. and abroad.

Dr. Evans joined us on our European Tour this past June, where our students performed in iconic venues across Prague, Vienna, and Salzburg — an unforgettable experience that reflected the heart of OKYO's mission. His leadership, paired with the continued excellence of our Executive Director Kris Markes, continues to elevate our programs and inspire our students in new and meaningful ways.

OKYO has a long and proud history of providing quality instrumental music education to the state of Oklahoma. Our mission is rooted in creating opportunities for artistic excellence, and this season, that mission is more vibrant than ever.

My journey began as a high school viola player with OKYO, an experience that led to a full music scholarship at Oklahoma City University, where I studied Music Business. I know firsthand that when young people have access, talent isn't limited by circumstance. OKYO is a community built on shared effort and opportunity, and I am honored to now serve in a leadership role that helps ensure those same opportunities for the next generation.

This year, we're building on the momentum of past successes and looking ahead with a bold vision. With Dr. Evans at the artistic helm, we're excited to grow our programs, deepen our community impact, and continue fostering leadership, collaboration, and creativity in every student.

To our families, alumni, donors, and community partners — thank you for making this work possible. Whether you've enrolled a child in an ensemble, attended a concert, volunteered your time, or contributed to our *Play It Forward*™ campaign, you are helping us keep tuition affordable and our programs accessible to all.

Together, we're shaping a future where music transforms lives.

From all of us at OKYO, welcome and enjoy the music!

De parte de todos nosotros en OKYO,  
¡bienvenidos y disfruten la música!

Sincerely,

*Ulises Serrano*

Ulises Serrano  
Chair, Board of Directors  
Oklahoma Youth Orchestras





Oklahoma City  
UNIVERSITY

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DECEMBER 12-13 / CHORAL  
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DECEMBER 11-14 / THEATRE  
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### *Spring Romances*

FEBRUARY 5-8 / THEATRE

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNST

FEBRUARY 27-MARCH 1 / MAINSTAGE OPERA

THE MERRY WIDOW

MARCH 6-8 / SPOTLIGHT MUSICAL

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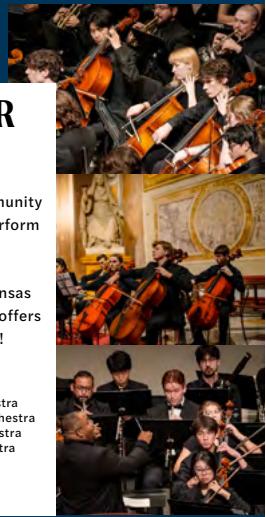
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Norman, OK

# FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure to invite you to celebrate Oklahoma Youth Orchestras' 48th season, another year of outstanding students and amazing music! As we begin this new chapter, we are thrilled to welcome back returning families and greet the many new faces joining our OKYO community.

We are especially excited to welcome Dr. Clifton Evans as our new Artistic Director. His energy, vision, and deep commitment to youth music education are already creating incredible momentum for this season and beyond. Under his leadership, our students are sure to reach new artistic heights.

OKYO continues to thrive as a vibrant arts organization, nurturing young musicians from communities across the region. This season is filled with promise as we continue our tradition of excellence and collaboration with Oklahoma City's leading arts organizations, including the Oklahoma City Philharmonic, Canterbury Youth Voices, Oklahoma Contemporary, and Brightmusic Chamber Orchestra. Together, we're helping shape a stronger and more connected arts community.

Each week, our students do more than rehearse and perform. They grow into leaders, collaborators, and creative thinkers. At OKYO, they learn to listen with intent, lead with empathy, and express themselves with confidence, skills that last a lifetime, both on and off the stage.

For many, OKYO is where they find their people. It is a place where they are supported, challenged, and celebrated. They leave our programs not only as stronger musicians but as compassionate, self-assured individuals ready to make a difference in the world.

Guided by our dedicated conductors and coaches, our students create moments of musical magic each week. None of this would be possible without the generous support of our Board, staff, families, and community.

Thank you for believing in OKYO and our young musicians. We look forward to an inspiring season ahead!

With gratitude,



Kris Markes  
Executive Director



We would like to take this opportunity to thank our students and families for all your support!

Thank you for being our biggest advocates and our biggest fans.

Thank you for helping spread the word among friends, family, and colleagues and helping increase enrollment to one of our largest seasons ever.

***Bravo! Well Done!***

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# FAMILY ADS

# FAMILY ADS

CAIDEN  
JOHN  
WELCH



Keep moving forward.  
Life is a journey  
to be experienced,  
not a problem  
to be solved.  
Thanks for the  
adventure. Now go  
have a new one.  
**Hakuna Matata**  
-Ohana



ANNIE  
COMPTON

We are so honored to have watched you grow your talent and love of music. Your work ethic and kind heart will take you far. We can't wait to watch where it takes you.

We love you!  
Dad, Mom and Mac

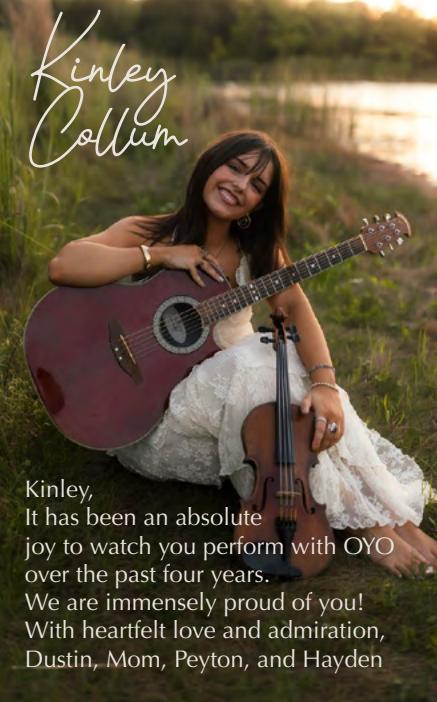
Dad and I are beyond proud of you and all that you've accomplished. You're a blessing to our lives and we'll forever thank the stars that we got to spend this life with you. We cannot wait to see what a beautiful life you continue to create.

At only 17 years old, you're beyond your years in wisdom and in talent.

We love you, Soph!  
Mom, Dad & Joei



Noah  
Eskridge



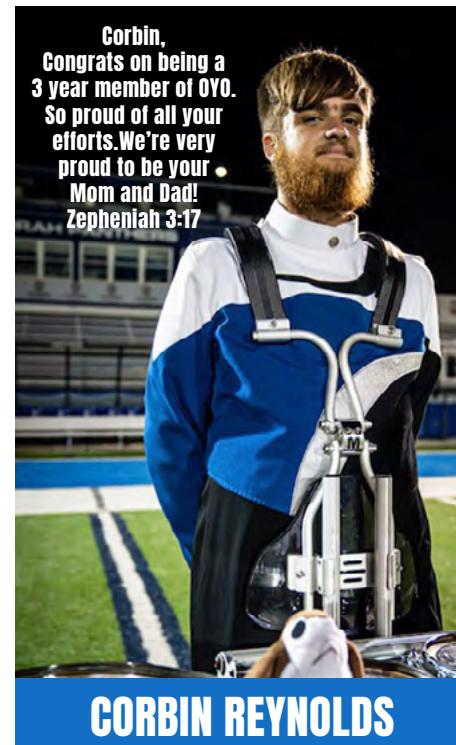
Kinley  
Collum

Kinley,  
It has been an absolute  
joy to watch you perform with OYO  
over the past four years.  
We are immensely proud of you!  
With heartfelt love and admiration,  
Dustin, Mom, Peyton, and Hayden

What a privilege it has been, AJ, to watch  
you grow into the most incredible young man!  
We are excited to watch as you continue to  
brighten the world just by being you and sharing  
your love of music. We are so proud of you!  
Love,  
Mom, Dad, and Cara



ALDEN  
MILLER



Corbin,  
Congrats on being a  
3 year member of OYO.  
So proud of all your  
efforts. We're very  
proud to be your  
Mom and Dad!  
Zephaniah 3:17



ELISE BUYTEN

Notes spring forth with ease  
Lovely music to our ears  
Cheers to Senior Year!

Love,  
Mom, Dad & Jonah

CORBIN REYNOLDS

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OKLAHOMA STORIES:  
CELEBRATING OUR FUTURE  
OCTOBER 25, 2025

JOEL LEVINE  
CONDUCTS TCHAIKOVSKY  
NOVEMBER 15, 2025

MOZART'S RIVALS:  
RACE TO THE TOP  
JANUARY 10, 2026

THE FIRE OF LOVE:  
ROMEO AND JULIET  
FEBRUARY 14, 2026

MASTERS OF MUSIC: ITALY  
MARCH 14, 2026

BRAHMS & BRONFMAN  
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MAHLER'S RESURRECTION  
SYMPHONY  
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MY SONGS IN SYMPHONY  
NOVEMBER 7-8, 2025

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DECEMBER 5-6, 2025

A VERY MERRY POPS: FAMILY MATINEE  
DECEMBER 6, 2025

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JANUARY 20

MARCH 23

APRIL 14

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## WINTER I CONCERT SERIES: FEBRUARY 1<sup>ST</sup> PERFORMANCES

Season Presenting Concert Sponsor: Richard & Glenna Tanenbaum

FEBRUARY 1, 2026 — 4:00PM  
OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
PERFORMING ARTS THEATRE

### OKLAHOMA YOUTH WINDS

Dr. Matthew Mailman, Conductor  
Ms. Sarah Neely, Associate Conductor

Urban Dances ..... Erik Morales

The 20th Century Band ..... Donald Coakley

- I. Six in a Row
- II. Modal Song
- III. Polymetricalchordalcluster March

Minecraft ..... Daniel Rosefeld  
arr. by Ralph Ford

Logan Edwards, Conducting Assistant

Rampage! ..... Todd Stalter

### OKLAHOMA YOUTH PHILHARMONIC

Mr. Peter Markes, OYP Conducting Candidate  
Mr. Andrew Barrington, Winds & Brass Coach

Artemis Rising ..... Jeffrey Bishop

Pirates of the Caribbean (Curse of the Black Pearl) ..... Klauss Badelt,  
arr. Ted Ricketts

Jupiter: the Bringer of Jollity from The Planets ..... Gustav Holst,  
arr. Vernon Leidig



### PETER MARKES

Associate Professor &  
Head of Music Education,  
Oklahoma City University  
Faculty Advisory, Oklahoma City  
University's NAfME Collegiate Chapter

Peter Markes (Marcus) lives in Oklahoma City with his wife, Kris, and their two boys, Patrick and Vincent. Since 2020 he has taught on faculty at his alma mater, Oklahoma City University, as associate professor and head of music education and faculty advisor for OCU's NAfME Collegiate Chapter. Prior to that he taught orchestra in the Edmond Public Schools for 15 years, taking the Edmond North Orchestra to a performance at the Midwest Clinic in 2012 and two tours to Carnegie Hall. For over 20 years he has served in numerous capacities on faculty with the Oklahoma Youth Orchestras, including seven years as conductor for the Oklahoma Youth Philharmonic, and currently as Artistic Director and Conductor for the *OKYO Summer Symphony Strings Camp*. In 2013, he was selected as the Oklahoma Teacher of the Year and also one of the "50 Directors Who Make a Difference" by *School Band and Orchestra magazine*.

Peter teaches and performs based on the belief that "music changes lives." Among his greatest joys are the countless times he has witnessed music inspire, encourage, and heal widely varied audiences around the world. Peter writes music and performs guitar and vocals with his musical partner of 30 years, Kyle Dillingham. Together they have performed in over thirty countries, completing two separate American Music Abroad tours to Taiwan, Korea, Myanmar, and Russia (2013) and Kuwait and Kosovo (2019). In July 2019, the band had their debut performance at the Grand Ole Opry, and that same year were selected to perform at World Expo 2020 in Dubai. In 2022, they were honored by the Edmond History Museum with an exhibit entitled *America's Musical Ambassadors*. Most recently they performed the 2025 New Year's Eve Halftime Show for the Oklahoma City Thunder. As a solo artist, Peter actively performs with a focus on live-looping violin and folk-pop singer-songwriter styles. He has released two albums, *I Have a Dream* (2018) and *My Father's Age* (2024), available to stream worldwide.

When not creating music, Peter enjoys time with his family—LEGO® building, watching movies, making more music, and rearranging the dishwasher after them. Learn and hear more at [www.PeterMarkes.com](http://www.PeterMarkes.com) and on YouTube and social media at @PeterMarkesMusic.

Video recordings of all these performances will be made available to all OKYO families in the coming weeks at no charge.

# WINTER I CONCERT SERIES: FEBRUARY 1<sup>ST</sup> PERFORMANCES

## FEATURING THE 2024-2025 CONCERTO COMPETITION WINNERS

Season Presenting Concert Sponsor: *Richard and Glenna Tanenbaum*

### OKLAHOMA YOUTH ORCHESTRA

Dr. Clifton Evans, Conductor

Fanfare from *La Peri* ..... Paul Dukas

Andrew Barrington, guest conductor

Ballet Music from *Faust* ..... Charles Gounod

VII. *Dance de Phryné*

Double Bass Concerto, Op. 3 ..... Serge Koussevitzky

I. Allegro

Patrick Markes, Double Bass

*Competition Winner of The Louise Francella*

*Waldorf Prize for Excellence in Solo Performance*

Violin Concerto No. 1 ..... Max Bruch

I. Vorspiel: Allegro moderato

Abby Tai, Violin

*Competition Winner of The Louise Francella*

*Waldorf Prize for Excellence in Solo Performance*

Symphonic Variations on an African Air ..... Samuel Coleridge-Taylor



**PATRICK MARKES**  
Double Bassist & Concerto  
Competition Winner of  
The Louise Francella Waldorf  
Prize for Excellence  
in Solo Performance

Patrick Markes is a 17-year-old senior at Classen School of Advanced Studies High School in Oklahoma City. Coming from a family of musicians, he grew up surrounded by music, studying piano through elementary and middle school. He began playing the bass when he was 14 in his high school string orchestra, and at 15, he began taking lessons with Dr. Christine Craddock. Patrick now studies with Professor Tyler Shepherd of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra and Oklahoma City University.

Patrick currently serves as Principal Double Bass of the Oklahoma Youth Orchestra and has held Principal Bass positions at the Oklahoma Summer Arts Institute and the OkMEA All-State Honor Orchestra. In the summer of 2025, he was accepted to the Interlochen Music Festival, the Tanglewood Bass Intensive, and Brevard Summer Music Festival. He decided to attend the Brevard Summer Music Festival where he served as the Assistant Principal Double Bassist, working with conductors Ken Lam and Keith Lockhart.

Along with winning the 2025 Oklahoma Youth Orchestra Louise Francella Waldorf Concerto Competition, Patrick has won the Oklahoma City Philharmonic Buttram Award 1st Prize for Viola/Double Bass, and in 2025 received the

Oklahoma Superintendent Arts Award for his accomplishments in the arts. He has also performed in master classes with double bassists including Peter Lloyd of the Colburn School, Max Zeugner of the New School and the New York Phil, and George Speed of Florida State University.

Beyond performing, Patrick is committed to leadership and musical community. He serves as the President of the Classen Orchestra Council and as a Council Member and a Vice Chair on the Oklahoma Youth Orchestras Student Leadership Council. He also volunteers at youth music camps and programs across the Oklahoma City metro, where he mentors younger bassists.

Patrick would like to thank his teachers, family, and friends for their support throughout his bass career. After high school, Patrick plans to continue studying double bass performance at the collegiate level, with hopes to play forever.



**ABBY TAI**

Violinist & Concerto Competition  
Winner of The Louise Francella  
Waldorf Prize for Excellence  
in Solo Performance

Abby Tai is a distinguished violinist and senior at Edmond North High School, recognized for exceptional musical leadership, expressive artistry, and a deep commitment to the craft of performance. Born into a musical family, Abby began piano study at age five before pursuing violin at age nine. She spent eight formative years studying with Mrs. Doris Morris and now works under Dr. Yena Lee, whose guidance has been central to her artistic development. She is especially grateful to Mr. Justin Pourtorkan for his mentorship and encouragement throughout her high school career.

Abby has held numerous concertmaster appointments, including with the Oklahoma Summer Arts Institute Orchestra, the North Central Honor Orchestra, and the Edmond North Orchestra. Furthermore, she is currently the concertmaster of the Oklahoma Youth Orchestra, and was awarded the Louise Francella Waldorf Prize for Excellence in Solo Performance.

A devoted orchestral and chamber musician, Abby has consistently ranked among the top four violinists in the Oklahoma Music Educators Association All-State Orchestra. As a founding member of the Simply Strings Quartet, she has performed widely throughout Oklahoma and collaborated with ensembles such as the Calico Quartet. Performances in the BrightmusicOK chamber series have further enriched her belief in music as a collaborative art that fosters connection and shared experience.

Abby also shares music generously with the community—performing regularly with the Village United Methodist Church praise team and appearing as a guest musician for the Oklahoma Philanthropic Educational Organization (P.E.O.), supporting its mission to advance educational opportunities for women. Beyond performance, Abby mentors younger musicians, coaches sectionals for community string programs, and serves in leadership roles within the Edmond North Orchestra, most recently as Philanthropy Chair.

In addition to her musical endeavors, Abby enjoys cooking, playing recreational basketball, and volunteering for community organizations such as the Taiwanese Association and Asian Cultural Club. Above all, Abby expresses deep gratitude to her parents, sister, and friends, whose constant encouragement, sacrifice, and belief have shaped every step of her musical journey. She hopes to continue that journey and pursue a lifelong career in violin performance.

Season Presenting Concert Sponsor: *Richard and Glenna Tanenbaum*

**SINFONIA**

Ms. Courtney Monk, Conductor  
Ms. Hope Bruening, Strings Coach  
Mr. Levi Dobrinski, Guest Conductor

<i>Silent Promise</i> .....	Aaron Soltis
<i>Skylight</i> .....	Brian Balmages
<i>Force of Nature</i> .....	Bruce W. Tippette



**LEVI DOBRINSKI**  
Violinist, Composer, Conductor &  
Educational Leader  
Assistant Principal,  
Shawnee Middle School

Levi Dobrinski is a violinist, composer, conductor, and educational leader based in Central Oklahoma. He currently serves as Assistant Principal at Shawnee Middle School and previously directed orchestras at all levels in the Putnam City School District.

Levi was named the OkMEA Young Music Educator of the Year in 2018 and served as President of the Collegiate Oklahoma Music Educators Association in 2013. He contributed to the development of the Oklahoma Academic Standards for Music as part of the Oklahoma State Department of Education's executive committee and has also served in advisory roles for teacher-leader effectiveness.

An advocate for arts education, he currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Oklahoma Chamber Orchestra and has been involved with the Oklahoma Alliance for Arts Education. As a guest conductor, Levi has served as a clinician for ensembles such as the Tulsa Youth Symphony, North Central Honors Orchestra, and the University of Arkansas Summer Music Camp. In 2020, Levi led a group of students in a performance at the historic Cadogan Hall and in London's New Year's Day Music Festival at the invitation of the Lord Mayor of Westminster. He also enjoys performing in various capacities and venues across the state, including having been on staff with Oklahoma Baptist University teaching in the orchestra preparatory department.

Read, hear, and see more at [www.levidobrinski.com](http://www.levidobrinski.com)

**CHAMBER ORCHESTRA**

Ms. Kristin Geist, Conductor  
Ms. Hope Bruening, Strings Coach  
Mrs. Kimblerly Banz, Guest Conductor

<i>Peripheral Visions</i> .....	Alan Lee Silva
<i>Night Beat</i> .....	M.L. Daniels
<i>Tango Noir (Dark Tango)</i> .....	Reynard Burns
<i>Black Sea</i> .....	Gary Gackstatter



**KIMBERLY BANZ**  
Director of Orchestras,  
Deer Creek Schools

Mrs. Kimberly Banz is in her sixteenth year in public education and her second year as Director of Orchestras in Deer Creek Schools. Prior to beginning the orchestra program for Deer Creek, Mrs. Banz spent seven years at Classen School of Advanced Studies. She served as the Director of Orchestras, the Visual and Performing Arts Department Chair, and the OKCPS District Orchestra Chair. Mrs. Banz was recently named the OKCPS District Teacher of the Year for the 2022-2023 academic year.

Under Mrs. Banz's direction, the Classen orchestras received 7 consecutive years of straight superior ratings at OSSAA State Competition. Her students hold a school and district record of 12 OKMEA All State Orchestra Members in 2018, and a total of 60 students during those seven years. Mrs. Banz consistently has student members in the North Central Honor Orchestras, Oklahoma Youth Orchestras, and the OSAI Quartz Mountain program. She has now had over 25 students earn the Oklahoma State Department of

Education Award for Arts Excellence. Her full orchestra has taken trips to Los Angeles, California where they were guests at the Colburn Conservatory and Orlando, Florida where they received First Place Gold at the WorldStrides Heritage Festival. In 2024, the orchestra was invited and able to perform in the WorldStrides National Festival in Carnegie Hall in New York City. With a record of musical excellence, her students are often asked to perform locally for foundation events, board meetings, and special occasions.

Most recently, she pioneered a brand new orchestra program in Deer Creek Schools, beginning with just 72 students. The program has more than doubled in size after one year, boasting over 150 musicians. Mrs. Banz was selected as an OTEP teacher in 2025, is a member of the DC Teacher Leadership Academy, and served as the OkMEA Orchestra Chair for the 2024-2025 academic year. She enjoys presenting professional development, being a mentor teacher, and creating lasting relationships with her students.

When not teaching, Mrs. Banz can be found spending time with her family, cheering on the OKC Thunder, or snuggling with her 73 pound basset hound, Olive Petunia.

# 25/26

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2025 | 7:30 PM



TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2026 | 7:30 PM



TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2026 | 7:30 PM

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2026 | 7:30 PM



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## THE LOUISE FRANCELIA WALDORF PRIZE FOR EXCELLENCE IN SOLO PERFORMANCE

Each season, Oklahoma Youth Orchestras presents the annual Concerto Competition, known as the *Louise Francelia Waldorf Prize for Excellence in Solo Performance*.

Sponsored by longtime OKYO supporter, Dr. Lin-Lin Liu, the competition's name was changed to honor her former teacher. "Miss Waldorf was my violin teacher when I was a member of OYO. At the time, Chickasha Public Schools did not have a strings program and she worked very hard to make sure I could play in an orchestra. I have fond memories of her accompanying me on her harpsichord. She was a remarkable lady," says Dr. Liu.

This year's co-winners are double bassist Patrick Markes, a senior at Classen School of Advanced Studies High School, and violinist Abby Tai, a senior at Edmond North High School. They are performing as soloists with the Oklahoma Youth Orchestra ensemble on Sunday, February 1, 2026.

## COMING IN SPRING 2026



After great success with our inaugural Young Virtuosos event last spring, we are proud to announce our 2026 event, March 22, 2026 at the Fordson Hotel.

To learn more about this event, please visit [pages 70-71](#) of this program. If you would like to learn more about sponsorships for this event, or are interested in volunteering, please contact our Executive Director, Kris Markes, at [kris@okyomusic.org](mailto:kris@okyomusic.org).

## SIDE-BY-SIDE EXPERIENCES

Special thank you to the OKCPHIL for their invitation to perform in the October 25 Classics Concert, "Oklahoma Stories: Celebrating our Future". OYO performed side-by-side with their Philharmonic counterpart musicians in *Sebelius' Finlandia*.

Without the continuing support of all of our collaborative partners, these exciting experiences would not be possible.

*Thank you to the  
Oklahoma City  
Philharmonic!*





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OKLAHOMA YOUTH ORCHESTRAS

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## AUDITIONED ENSEMBLES

# Oklahoma Youth Orchestra (OYO)

### OKYO's Flagship Ensemble

Students in Oklahoma Youth Orchestra study and perform professional-level repertoire from the classical orchestral cannon as well as contemporary works and learn to accompany soloists as an ensemble.



**Dr. Clifton Evans**

Artistic Director, Oklahoma Youth Orchestras  
&  
Conductor, Oklahoma Youth Orchestra

*"I am delighted to join the Oklahoma Youth Orchestra as their conductor this season!! They are a truly remarkable, passionately dedicated group of young musicians, and I consider it a great honor and privilege to make music with them. I can say without exaggeration that their talent and fierce devotion to artistic excellence is second to none!"*

#### VIOLIN I

Avie Bales  
Lila Bales  
Elise Buyten  
Serena Cai  
Danzel Chen  
Nina Hsu #  
Lauren Kim  
Izri Lam  
Joshua Li  
Elise McNair  
Maria Monsalve  
Sophia Stoops §  
Abby Tai  
Ning Tay  
Emalyn Terry  
Hannah Wang  
Tammy Wang  
Jiho Yoon

#### VIOLIN II

Eden Bales ^  
Makayla Bostwick  
Madeline Braun  
Melody Chen  
Kinley Collum  
Silas Emrich  
Noah Eskridge  
Nathan Fenech #  
Troy Garcia  
Tatum Rodriguez  
Emme Shum  
Chase Wilt  
Joy Yang  
Nicklas Yong  
Emmy Xiang  
Kelvin Xie

#### VIOLA

Denny Alvarez  
M.J. Andes  
BellaRose Black  
Miranda Huang ^  
Elina Ji  
Zurie Jones  
Earl Landswick  
Natalie Lewis  
Lara Reams #

#### CELLO

Brady Bonds  
Annie Compton  
Jonah Fletcher  
Ely Gonzalez ^  
Jamie Kang #  
Aiden Kim  
Noah Koo  
Olivia Lao-Alvarado  
Samuel Mosley  
Fahim Nazir  
Ben Peters  
Sophia Shelton  
Cassie Solorzano  
Noah Taylor  
Avery Wiggins

#### BASS

Nathan Kim  
Patrick Markes \*  
Mason McAllister \*  
Benjamin Waugh  
Owen Westmoreland

#### FLUTE

Grace Goodin  
Sofia Pico Rodriguez \*  
Carly Rogers \*

#### OBOE

Asa Borjas  
Ayson Thelin ^

#### CLARINET

A.J. Miller ^  
Libby Revel +

#### BASSOON

Cooper Perkins ^  
Aubrey Ketch +

#### HORN

Trey Brown ^  
Dane Frost ^  
Brennon Nave  
Petya Terekhov

#### TRUMPET

Quinn Daniels \*  
Evan Goodson  
Hayden Weathers \*

#### HARP

Laila Smith ^

#### PERCUSSION

Asa Byrne  
Isaiah Cole  
Corbin Reynolds ^

#### OYO CONDUCTING ASSISTANT

Chau Hoang,  
Graduate  
Conducting Student,  
Oklahoma City  
University

§ Concertmaster

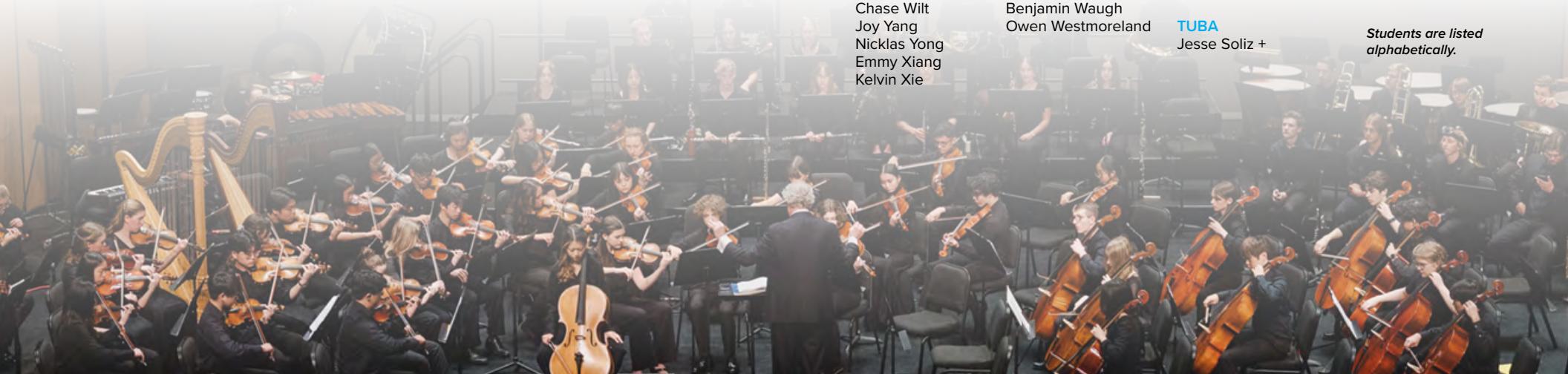
^ Principal

\* Co-Principal

# Associate Principal

+ Guest Performer

*Students are listed alphabetically.*





OKLAHOMA YOUTH ORCHESTRAS

Outstanding Students. Amazing Music.

## AUDITIONED ENSEMBLES

# Oklahoma Youth Philharmonic (OYP)

### OKYO's Training Orchestra

Students in **Oklahoma Youth Philharmonia** study and perform both educationally arranged masterworks, but also appropriate works from the classical orchestral cannon. Their repertoire is designed to introduce students to the full-orchestra setting.

To better serve student needs, OYP begins each season as a strings-only orchestra to allow woodwinds and brass students to finish their busy marching band seasons.



**Peter Markes**

OYP Conducting Candidate & Artistic Director, Summer Symphony Strings Camp

*"What a fun way to spend Monday evening! Even after a long day of teaching—these kids have been so much fun and allowed me to push them as musicians. It's been a delight and an honor to get to be a small part of their musical journey."*

### VIOLIN I

Abigail Asbury  
Laura Clausen  
Emily Emrich  
Stella Hong §  
Naomi Jacques  
Vincent Li  
Erin Paik  
Sarina Phung  
Delynda Roberts  
LaraLiz Schellenberg  
Addie Shum  
Sabina Stanfield  
Grayson Stone  
Ellie Taylor  
Waverly Toomoth  
Ava Tu  
Oliver White  
Natalie Wyro

### VIOLIN II

Mariel Carvallo  
Katherine Christiansen  
Kevin Cruz  
Catherine Dunn  
Ivan Fu  
Evelyn Gardocki  
Elise Huang  
Callista Jensen  
Samiyah Loper  
Alexandria Moncriffe  
Charity Prentice  
Pranesh Ramakrishnan  
Jade Ranum  
Stella Rosenhamer  
Natalie Ross ^  
Reese Sanders  
Celine Tan  
Lilia VanNoy  
Anna Wilson

### CELLO

Boston Carter  
Daphne Goodrich  
Phoebe Goodrich ^  
Zoe Hsu  
William Kempf \*  
Elizabeth Kwok  
Avelyn Pitts  
Kurtis Wenzel

### TRUMPET

Wrynnlee Cox  
Jayden Miller ^

### TROMBONE

Reid Fisher  
Vincent Markes ^  
Ian Monney

### TUBA

Elizabeth Cowan ^

### PERCUSSION

Liliana Goodwyn  
Ezra Kidd  
Ethan Thomas  
Audrey Varner

### BASS

Michael Berg  
Ava Martinez ^

### FLUTE

Jessa Osmus  
Sophia Reams  
Damian Rivera  
Audrey Zhang ^

### OBOE

Ian Morris  
Harper Ruhl ^

### CLARINET

Mollie Billheimer  
Isaac Bishop  
Maggie Kershen  
Connor McLain  
Helen Ni ^  
Olivia Ross  
Josephine Shelton

§ Concertmaster

^ Principal

\* Co-Principal

+ Guest Performer

### BASSOON

Knox Harder ^

*Students are listed alphabetically.*

### HORN

Georgia Lance +  
Sedona McElroy  
Taytum Schlarb ^





OKLAHOMA YOUTH ORCHESTRAS

Outstanding Students. Amazing Music.

## AUDITIONED ENSEMBLES

### Oklahoma Youth Winds (OYW)

#### Symphonic Wind Ensemble

Made up of talented high school wind, brass and percussion students, Oklahoma Youth Winds exposes students to high level wind repertoire.



[Dr. Matthew Mailman](#)

Conductor,  
Oklahoma Youth Winds



[Sarah Neely](#)

Associate Conductor,  
Oklahoma Youth Winds

#### "How do we spell OYW?

**O** is for "OPPORTUNITY" where students have a great setting to interact musically with other students from all over the OKC Metro and to learn about music from experts in the field.

**Y** is for "WHY SHOULD YOU JOIN?" Our setting is familiar but different than what most students experience in their school music programs. We cover different repertoire and provide musical training from some of the finest music teachers in the state.

**W** is for "WOULD YOU FIT IN?" The answer is YES! Not only are all of our students friendly, but also everyone joins at their own musical skill levels and everyone is able to grow and have fun. Our diversity of personnel is one of the things that sets us apart!"

#### FLUTE

Isla Aguilera  
Taydan Dao  
Adelyn Deen  
Olive French  
Rion Hill-Adams  
Ashley Knight  
Jasmine Riggs

#### OBOE

Ashlyn Watts

#### CLARINET

Kennedy Epplin  
Rosaura Gamboa Ellington  
Aspen Hamburger  
Knox Harder  
Isabella Karibian  
Carly Merrick #  
Jana Denise Suarez

#### BASS CLARINET

Lilah DeLao  
Lavender Phillips  
Izabella Young

#### BASSOON

Linus Robertson  
Sawyer Rowland

#### ALTO SAX

Tova Coleman  
Anara Craig  
William Patton

#### TENOR SAX

Jake Wendling

#### BARI SAX

Malachi Bilbrey

#### HORN

Eric Ferguson  
Georgia Lance #  
Jackson Seal

#### TRUMPET

Jameson Barton  
Carter Farley  
Thomas Johnson  
Kale Spencer  
Elliot Yii

#### TROMBONE

Aiden Blackburn  
Vedera Martinez  
Eli Mooney

#### EUPHONIUM

Thomas Barrington  
Grim Bell  
Carson Cramer

#### TUBA

Elizabeth Cowan  
Sebastian Denman  
Morgan Nelson  
Caidenjohn Welch

#### PERCUSSION

Asa Byrne  
Isaiah Cole  
Corbin Reynolds ^

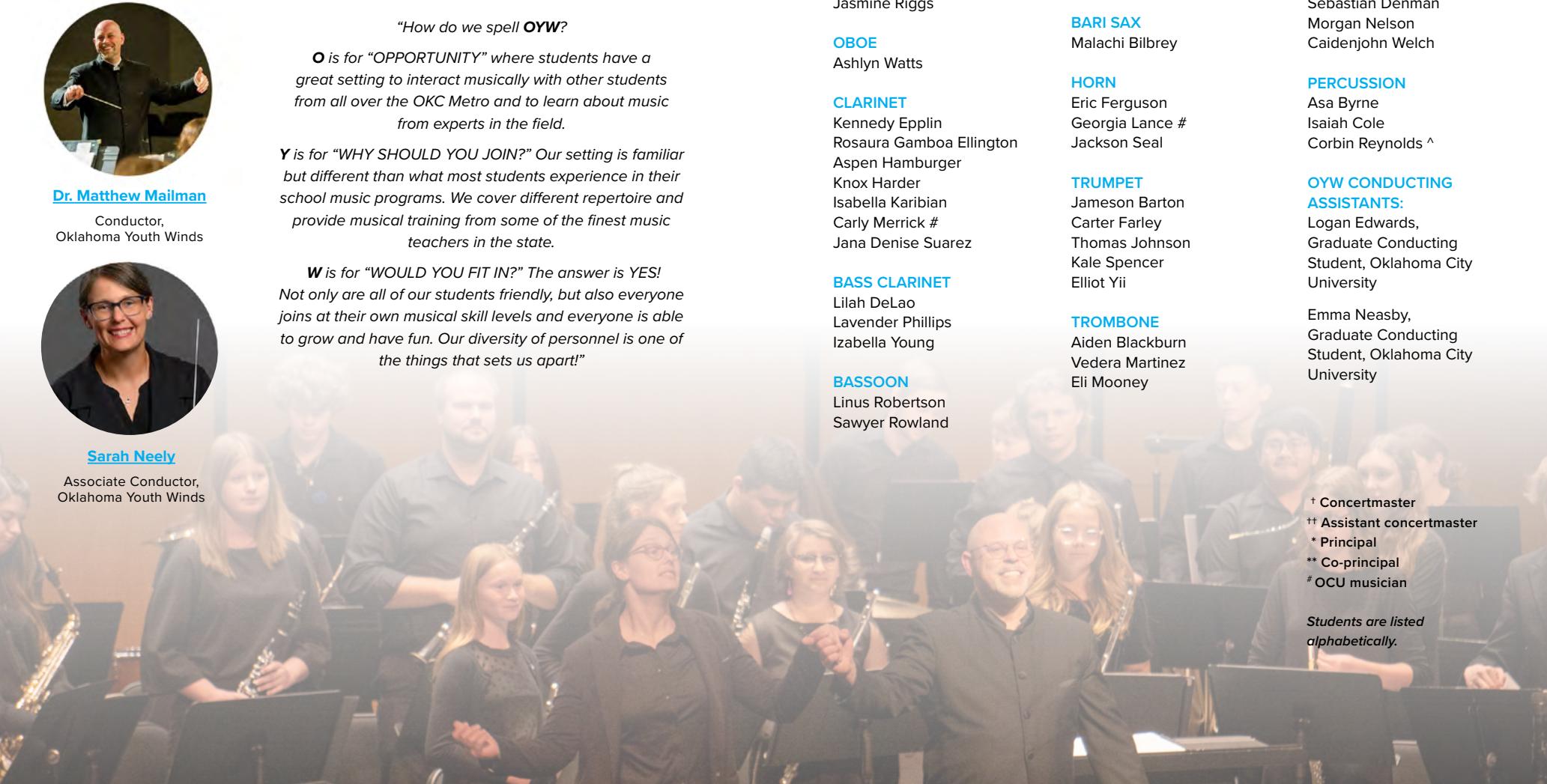
#### OYW CONDUCTING ASSISTANTS:

Logan Edwards,  
Graduate Conducting  
Student, Oklahoma City  
University

Emma Neasby,  
Graduate Conducting  
Student, Oklahoma City  
University

+ Concertmaster  
++ Assistant concertmaster  
\* Principal  
\*\* Co-principal  
# OCU musician

Students are listed alphabetically.





OKLAHOMA YOUTH ORCHESTRAS  
Outstanding Students. Amazing Music.

## AUDITIONED ENSEMBLES

### Percussion Ensemble

#### Percussion Ensemble

Percussion students in OKYO will have the opportunity to perform advanced band and orchestral repertoire in OYW, OYP and OYO, with occasional featured performances as a dedicated percussion ensemble.



[Michael Corts](#)

Percussion  
Coordinator



[Ashleigh Holmes](#)

Percussion  
Coordinator



[Adam Whoolery](#)

Percussion  
Coordinator

In the world of orchestras, percussionists stand out as the versatile maestros, bringing life to a single piece of music by skillfully shifting between a multitude of instruments.

Members of the Percussion Ensemble work to hone their skills on an impressive array of instruments:

TIMPANI  
XYLOPHONE  
Cymbals  
Triangle  
Snare Drum  
Bass Drum

TAMBOURINE  
MARACAS  
GONG  
CHIMES  
PIANO  
HARP

#### PERCUSSIONISTS

Asa Byrne  
Isaiah Cole  
Liliana Goodwyn  
Ezra Kidd  
Corbin Reynolds  
Ethan Thomas  
Audrey Varner

*Students are listed alphabetically.*





OKLAHOMA YOUTH ORCHESTRAS

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## AUDITIONED ENSEMBLES

### Chamber Orchestra

#### Upper Intermediate Strings

Chamber Orchestra performs repertoire that focuses on position work, advanced rhythms, bowing techniques, and expression.



[Kristin Geist](#)

Conductor,  
Chamber Orchestra  
&  
Conductor,  
Festival Strings OKC



[Hope Bruening](#)

Coach,  
Young Strings

#### VIOLIN I

Isaac Bales §  
Kinsley Cui  
Sophia Inman  
Addie Kenworthy  
Emmy Kenworthy  
Kaelyn Kinnaman  
Kenneth Nguyen  
Ethan Schulke  
Simone Subieta-Lazarte  
Sailesh Swamidurai

#### VIOLIN II

Olivia Cai  
Haze Conway ^  
Helen Cruz  
Nathan Fondjo  
Sophie Frasher  
Taylor Jacobs  
Hanah Le  
Caelyn McGoodwin  
Helana Nechtow  
Cole Nguyen  
Matthew Patton  
Reilly Robertson  
Finnley Sharp

#### VIOLA

Kiera Chao ^  
Julia Glancy  
Asher Imse  
Virginia Kemper

#### CELLO

David Connally  
Amalia Cozyris  
Allegria Florez  
June Frost  
Brooklyn Lillard  
Adriana Lottie ^  
Zoie Madison Leano  
Maria Montoya  
Freya Nayar  
Celine Paik  
Trinidad Rodriguez  
Jett Wagner

#### BASS

Holland Champney ^  
Riley Merrick

§ Concertmaster

^ Principal

*Students are listed alphabetically.*





OKLAHOMA YOUTH ORCHESTRAS

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## AUDITIONED ENSEMBLES

### Sinfonia

#### Developing String Players

Sinfonia performs repertoire that focuses on tone development, expanding bow technique, and ensemble playing.



**Courtney Monk**

Conductor,  
Sinfonia



**Hope Bruening**

Coach,  
Young Strings

*"Students in Sinfonia learn proper rehearsal etiquette and how to make music as an ensemble. Students' skills are challenged with increasingly difficult repertoire and attention to phrasing, bowings, dynamics, and articulations."*

#### VIOLIN

Evelyn Barbour  
Abigail Burch  
Claire Cozyris  
Valeria Diaz  
Carys Dunn  
Ellie Gassen  
Kayla Gray §  
Payton Guerrero  
Faith Palmer  
John Palmer  
Beckett VanGundy

#### VIOLIN II

Liam Auter  
Gabriel Byrne  
Kaden Cole  
Daniela Del Real  
Carter Mackey  
Sumaq Maqqe ^  
Vedera Martinez  
Catherine Morton  
Jackson Phelps  
Kandis Sorrell

#### CELLO

Philippa Deacon Wallet  
Reagan Doss  
Dana Florez  
Parker Harvey  
Anna Herrin  
Ethan Holbrook  
Denny Kearney ^  
Fisher Marchant  
Chloe Slane

#### BASS

Robert Garrison ^

§ Concertmaster

^ Principal

*Students are listed alphabetically.*



### Festival Winds

#### Non-Auditioned Wind Ensemble

Made up of emerging woodwind, brass and percussion students, Festival Winds is designed to challenge and develop music students with new music and new skills.



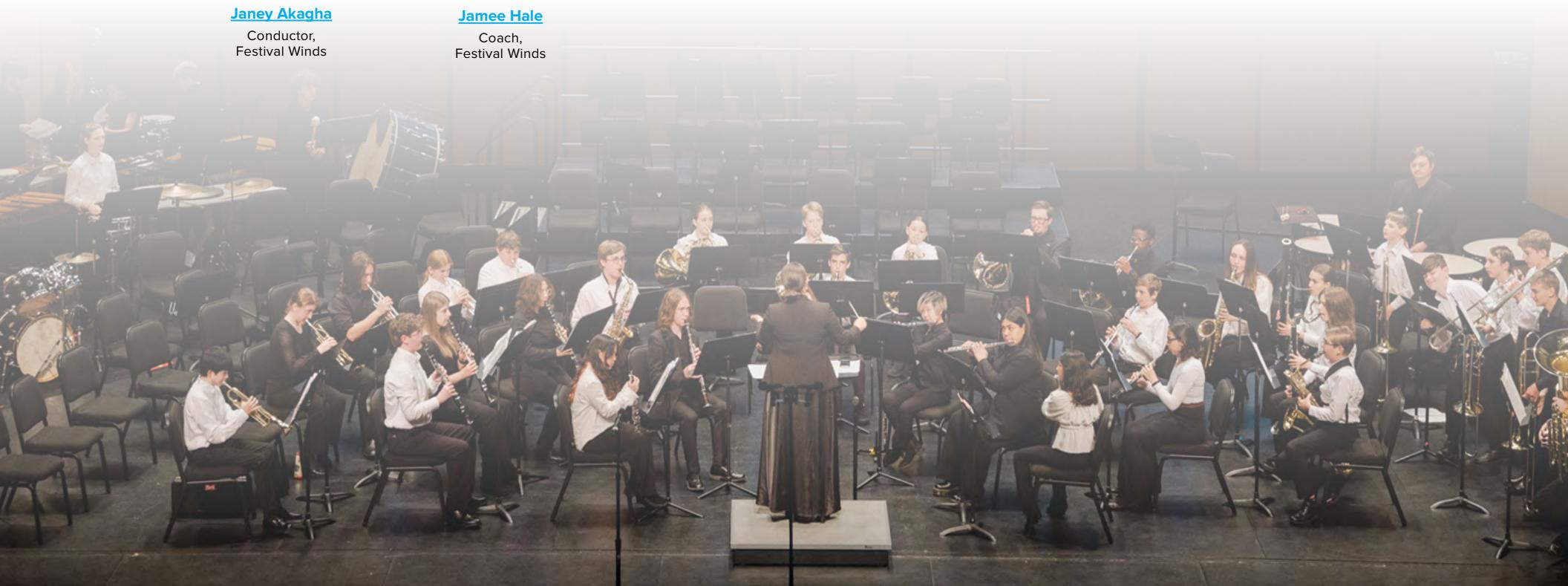
[Janey Akaghah](#)  
Conductor,  
Festival Winds



[Jamee Hale](#)  
Coach,  
Festival Winds

Watch for the student roster in the March 1, 2026 Winter Concert program.

See pages 20-21 for the full season concert schedule.





OKLAHOMA YOUTH ORCHESTRAS  
Outstanding Students. Amazing Music.

## NON-AUDITIONED ENSEMBLES

### Festival Strings

#### Non-Auditioned, Strings-Only

The Festival Strings ensembles are designed to challenge and develop young music students with new music and new skills.

Satellite ensembles: Oklahoma City, Norman, and Edmond



[Kristin Geist](#)

Conductor,  
Chamber Orchestra  
&  
Conductor,  
Festival Strings OKC



[Mark Osborn](#)

Conductor,  
Festival Strings Norman



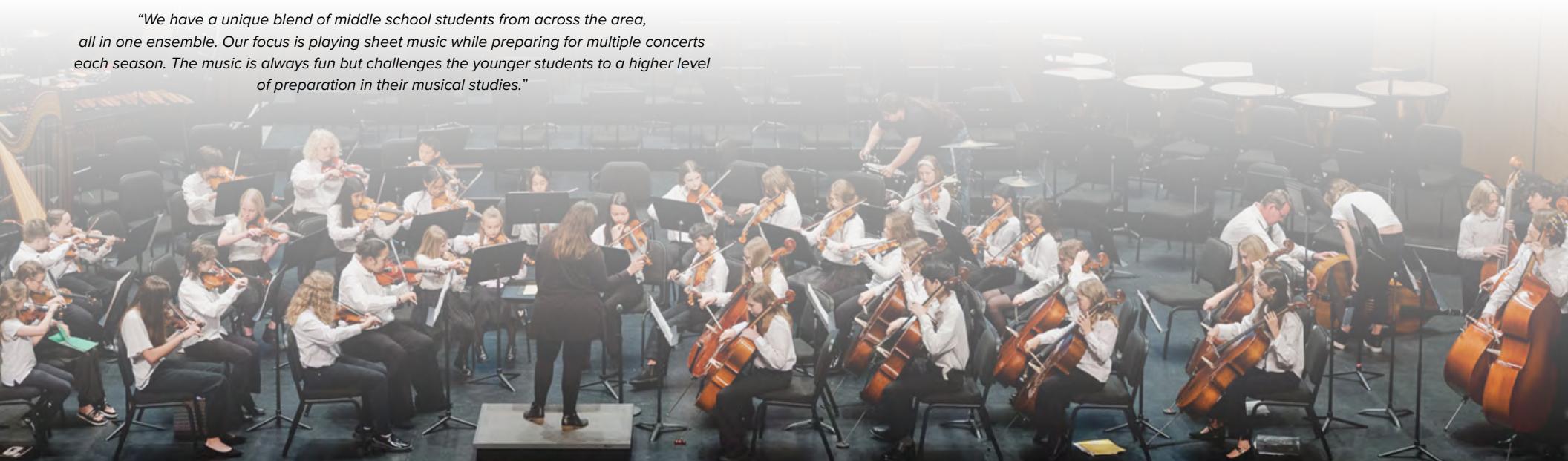
[Gena Alexander](#)

Conductor,  
Festival Strings Edmond

Watch for the student roster in the March 1, 2026 Winter Concert program.

See pages 20-21 for the full season concert schedule.

*"We have a unique blend of middle school students from across the area, all in one ensemble. Our focus is playing sheet music while preparing for multiple concerts each season. The music is always fun but challenges the younger students to a higher level of preparation in their musical studies."*



STAY IN TUNE  
THIS SUMMER!

## Summer Symphony Strings Camp (SSSC)

### Annual Commuter Day Camp

SSSC Students participate in string orchestra rehearsals and sectionals, working with professional staff members who supervise all activities.

Students participate in orchestra rehearsals and sectionals, working with professional music educators and spend time learning more about various art forms through arts experiences presented by partners, like RACE Dance Collective.

Under the direction of Camp Artistic Director, Peter Markes, the week concludes on Friday with a Camp Closing Ceremonies concert for campers' families.



[Peter Markes](#)

Artistic Director,  
Summer Symphony  
Strings Camp

Mark your calendars for SSSC 2026!  
**June 15 - June 19, 2026**

Please [CLICK HERE](#) for important Camp information and the daily schedule.





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**OKYO**  
OKLAHOMA YOUTH ORCHESTRAS  
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**Oklahoma Youth Philharmonic  
Conductor Search Underway**

The process to identify the next conductor of OYP is underway, and we're excited to share the details of this important transition.

The season began under the direction of guest conductor Jeremy Scott, Director of Orchestras at Putnam City North High School. We are grateful to Mr. Scott for stepping into this role for OYP's November concert and look forward to his upcoming concert with OYP.

Following the first concert, two finalists have been selected to lead the ensemble through the remainder of the season. After reviewing nine candidates and completing interviews, the OYP Conductor Search Committee has named Mr. Peter Markes and Dr. Alex Lee as the finalists.

Mr. Markes will conduct the February 1 concert, leading all rehearsals leading up to that performance. Dr. Lee will begin rehearsing with OYP following the February concert and will conduct the May 3 performance. This format allows the committee to observe each finalist's teaching and conducting style before making a final recommendation at the end of the season.

The OYP Conductor Search Committee is chaired by Mark Belcik, a member of the OKYO Board of Directors, and includes Dr. Clif Evans, OKYO Artistic Director, and local music educators Annie Mann and Jenn Bounds. We are deeply grateful to the committee for their thoughtful work and to our guest and finalist conductors for their leadership this season.

Please join us in welcoming Mr. Scott, Mr. Markes, and Dr. Lee to OKYO this season!



Jeremy Scott  
Guest Conductor  
November Concert



Peter Markes  
Conducting Finalist  
February Concert



Alex Lee  
Conducting Finalist  
May Concert

# THANKS TO OUR COMMUNITY SUPPORT

## VOLUNTEERS

A very special thank you to the many volunteers who work throughout the season to help make the Oklahoma Youth Orchestras programs possible for so many students in Oklahoma.

## MUSIC EDUCATORS, PRIVATE TEACHERS & MUSIC PROFESSIONALS

We applaud you for your work and dedication in enriching student musicians throughout Oklahoma. You might not hear it as often as you should, but your work is so important and so appreciated, as only together can we provide the comprehensive support students need to excel as musicians and as citizens. *Bravo!*

## OKYO SECTIONAL COACHES

With gratitude to all the professionals who lead group sectionals:

ROD ACKMANN

ADAM BASSET

DAVON CARRINGTON

CHARLES DRURY

EMILY DUNCAN

CHANDLER FADERO

RACHEL MACZKO

SCOTT MEREDITH

YENA LEE

DOUGLAS LINDSEY

ALEX LUNDAY

CHAVDAR PARASHKEVOV

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KATE PRITCHETT

JON RUCK

SCOTTY SCOTT

TYLER SHEPHERD

KATRIN STAMATIS

ANTHONY STOOPS

EMILY STOOPS

VALERIE WATTS

BETTY YUAN

## OKYO GUEST EDUCATORS

We look forward to all the Guest Educators who will be working with our students this season.

## REHEARSAL SPACES

A most sincere thank you to the facilities that provide vital rehearsal space for all our ensembles during our season:

OKLAHOMA CITY UNIVERSITY  
WANDA L. BASS SCHOOL OF MUSIC

WHITTIER MIDDLE SCHOOL  
NORMAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SEQUOYAH MIDDLE SCHOOL  
EDMOND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## PERFORMANCE VENUES

Our gratitude also goes to the facilities that provide wonderful performance space for our concerts during our season:

OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
PERFORMING ARTS THEATRE

OKLAHOMA CITY UNIVERSITY  
WANDA L. BASS SCHOOL OF MUSIC

OKLAHOMA CONTEMPORARY



BE THE HEARTBEAT:  
BECOME AN OKYO SUSTAINER!

We know it can be a hassle trying to keep up with all the community groups you want to support, so we've got an easy option for you: sign up once with a credit card to make a monthly donation, then never worry about it again! Simply select your preferred amount per month and double check that your donation frequency is set to "monthly." When you become an OKYO Sustainer you are the heartbeat to keep making music! [Learn how!](#)

*"Giving as an OKYO Sustainer not only allows me to support young musicians on a regular, steady basis, it also conveniently breaks up my giving into manageable monthly amounts."*

– Nathan Young, OKYO Sustainer

## SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR:

### OKYO AUDIO, VIDEO & PHOTOGRAPHY PARTNERS:

HORTON PRODUCTIONS

for concert audio and video engineering services

OH JOY PHOTOGRAPHY

ULISES SERRANO

MICHAEL ANDERSON PHOTOGRAPHY

for their professional photography throughout this program

### VOLUNTEERS, PARENTS, STAFF & SUPPORTERS

who provide photos from rehearsals and performances

### OKLAHOMA CITY ARTS PARTNERS

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OKLAHOMA CITY MUSEUM OF ART

BRIGHTMUSIC CHAMBER ENSEMBLE

## Conductor's Circle Members

Individuals who choose to support Oklahoma Youth Orchestras with a tax-deductible gift, through our annual *Play It Forward*™ campaign, as a monthly Sustainer, or any unspecified donation, are thanked with special invitations and other expressions of gratitude throughout the year.

Please join us in applauding those who donated to OKYO between July 1, 2025 and January 15, 2026:

### MAESTRO \$10,000+

Anonymous  
Richard and Glenna Tanenbaum

### ORCHESTRA \$5,000 — \$9,999

Dean Everett and Mark Everett  
Dr. Lin Lin Liu

### CONCERTMASTER \$2,500 — \$4,999

Claren Kidd  
Retired Colonel Dean and Jeanne Jackson  
*in memory of Karen Vollbrecht*

### MUSICIAN \$1,000 — \$2,499

Jose Batty   
Beth Boren  
Victoria Caldwell  
Kim Fletcher  
Paul and Debra Hagemeier  
*in honor of Rachel Hagemeier*  
Kris and Peter Markes  
Catherine Reaves   
*in memory of Michael Reaves*

Joe and Kathryn Rodano  
Ulises and Lindy Serrano  
Joseph Thai  
Arthur and Betty Thompson  
Maria and Ron Urlaub  
Van Meter Law Firm, PLC  
Jessica Wilson  
David Woolly

### SUPPORTER \$500 — \$999

Steve Agee  
*in honor of Kristen Agee (former OYO Concertmistress)*  
Lloyd and Glenda Eisenhour  
Andrew Fagg  
*in honor of William McGovern Fagg*  
Anna McMillin  
*in honor of Kris Markes*  
Oklahoma County Bar Association  
*in honor of Professor Joseph Thai*  
Rachel Poe  
David Wilson and Karen Ross  
Jonathan and Andrea Stone  
Carolyn Wade

### PATRON \$100 — \$499

Angela Andes  
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Chelsea Banks   
Mark and Teena Belcik  
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Kent and Hiromi Hood  
Shirley Jones  
*in honor of Paulette Schroeder*

### PATRON \$100 — \$499 (CONTINUED)

Julianna and Joshua Kershen  
*in honor of Andrew, Lucy & Maggie Kershen*  
Donald Lehman and Phyllis Ford  
*in honor of Silas and Emily Emrich*  
Maria Marcos  
Mike and Barbara Mize  
Diane Moershel  
Pam and Mike Mowry  
Mark Parker  
Laura Reese  
Chazlen Rook  
Dr. and Mrs. Carl Schaefer  
Aubrey Welfare  
Nathan Young   
Julie Yu-Oppenheim  
Amy Willoughby  
Jared Woolly  
Amy Zuback

### FRIEND \$10 — \$99

Debbie Ashford  
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Jared Davis  
Mary Harris  
Lindsay Laird  
Carmen Lemoine  
Caleb Mitchum   
Courtney Monk  
Janet and Robert Neely  
Chris Prather  
Donna Reynolds  
*in honor of Paula Swing*  
Judy Schroeder  
Paulette Schroeder  
Paula Swing  
Stephanie Wallace  
*in honor of Bill Gipperich*  
Lori Wilson  
Ji Yan

 OKYO Sustainers

To learn how you can make an easy monthly gift to OKYO, please visit [www.oyomusic.org/sustainers](http://www.oyomusic.org/sustainers)

### Young Virtuosos at the Fordson Hotel

March 22, 2026  
5:30 pm - 7:00 pm

We are thrilled to announce our second annual **Young Virtuosos: An Evening of Chamber Music**, an inspiring night that celebrates exceptional young talent and the power of music to transform lives. Join us for an evening of chamber music showcasing Oklahoma's premier emerging musical talent, accompanied by drinks and hors d'oeuvres, at the beautiful Fordson Hotel located at 900 W. Main Street.

This special event benefits Oklahoma Youth Orchestras, supporting our mission to nurture young musicians, expand access to high-quality arts education, and create meaningful opportunities for students throughout our community. By coming together for this evening of music and connection, you help cultivate creativity, discipline, and leadership—shaping not only the artists of tomorrow, but the leaders of tomorrow as well.

If you would like to learn more about sponsorships for this event, please click the button below or contact our Executive Director, Kris Markes, at [kris@okyomusic.org](mailto:kris@okyomusic.org).



BUY TICKETS OR BECOME A SPONSOR

### PLATINUM SPONSOR - \$5,000

- 6 Premium Seats at Young Virtuosos: An Evening of Chamber Music
- Complementary event valet parking for up to three vehicles
- 6 Complementary Tickets to OYO's Season Finale Concert
- Top listing and logo placement on all event materials
- Verbal acknowledgment from the stage during Young Virtuosos event
- Name and logo recognition as Platinum Sponsor on the OKYO website
- Recognition in pre-event press releases
- Social media acknowledgment
- Listing in OKYO's newsletter
- Recognition in the 2025-26 Season Concert Program Book

### GOLD SPONSOR - \$2,500

- 4 Premium Seats at Young Virtuosos: An Evening of Chamber Music
- Complementary event valet parking for up to two vehicles
- 4 Complementary Tickets to OYO's Season Finale Concert
- Featured listing and logo placement on event materials
- Verbal acknowledgment from the stage during Young Virtuosos event
- Name and logo recognition as Gold Sponsor on the OKYO website
- Social media acknowledgment
- Listing in OKYO's newsletter
- Recognition in the 2025-26 Season Concert Program Book

### SILVER SPONSOR - \$1,000

- 2 Premium Seats at Young Virtuosos: An Evening of Chamber Music
- Complementary event valet parking for one vehicle
- 2 Complementary Tickets to OYO's Season Finale Concert
- Recognition as a Silver Sponsor on event materials
- Name recognition on the OKYO website
- Social media acknowledgment
- Listing in OKYO's newsletter
- Recognition in the 2025-26 Season Concert Program Book

### BRONZE SPONSOR - \$500

- 1 Premium Seat at Young Virtuosos: An Evening of Chamber Music
- 1 Complementary Ticket to OYO's Season Finale Concert
- Recognition as a Bronze Sponsor on event materials
- Name recognition on the OKYO website
- Social media acknowledgement
- Listing in OKYO's newsletter
- Recognition in the 2025-26 Season Concert Program Book

INDIVIDUAL TICKETS - \$150

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A very special thank you to the parents and families who helped support this season's program by purchasing a celebration ad for their student!

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## AUDITION DAYS

Jan. 31, 2026 • March 7, 2026

### Undergraduate Programs

- B.M. in Vocal Performance
- B.M. in Instrumental Performance
- B.M. in Jazz Performance
- B.M. in Musical Theatre
- B.M.Ed in Music Education
- B.A. in Music

### Graduate Programs

- M.M. in Collaborative Piano
- M.M. in Composition
- M.M. in Conducting
- M.M. in Performance
- M.M. in Music Education
- M.M. in Musical Theatre
- M.M. in Jazz Studies
- M.M. in Pedagogy



To schedule an audition, scan the QR code, email [ocae@uco.edu](mailto:ocae@uco.edu), or visit [go.uco.edu/auditions](http://go.uco.edu/auditions)

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Orchestras and music excellence in Oklahoma.

We congratulate the students making amazing music  
and pursuing their dreams, and we wish you all a wonderful season!



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