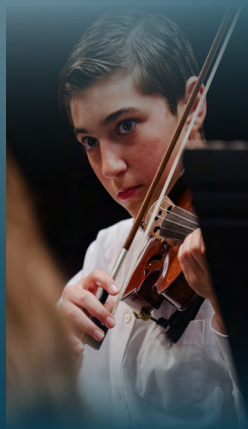


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Richard and Glenna Tanenbaum are proud to support the Oklahoma Youth Orchestras in their efforts to provide opportunities for Oklahoma youths seeking to pursue their passion for musical excellence!

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

	PAGE
OKYO Foundation & Corporate Supporters	3
Our Story & Our Mission	6-7
Our Board, Advisory Council, and Student Leadership Council	10-11
Artistic & Administrative Teams	12-13
Summer Symphony Strings Camp (SSSC).	14
Welcome Dr. Clifton Evans.	18
Artistic Director's Letter	19
2025-26 Season Performance Schedule	20-21
OKYO Play It Forward™ Campaign	22
Board Chair's Letter	23
Executive Director's Letter.	26
Thank You from OKYO	27
Fall Concert Series Program	34-35
The Louise Francelia Waldorf Prize	38
OYO Side-by-Side	38
2026 Young Virtuosos: An Evening of Chamber Music	39
OKYO Auditioned Ensembles & Rosters:	
Oklahoma Youth Orchestra (OYO).	42-43
Oklahoma Youth Philharmonic (OYP)	44-45
Oklahoma Youth Winds (OYW)	46-47
Percussion Ensemble.	48-49
Chamber Orchestra	50-51
Sinfonia.	52-53
OKYO Non-Auditioned Ensembles & Rosters:	
Festival Winds	54-55
Festival Strings: Edmond, Oklahoma City & Norman	56-57
Summer Symphony Strings Camp (SSSC).	58-59
Oklahoma Youth Philharmonic Conductor Search	61
Our Community Supporters	62-63
Conductor's Circle Members.	64-65
2025 European Tour & Young Virtuosos: An Evening of Chamber Music	66-67
Advertiser's Listing	68

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](https://okyomusic.org), its ensembles, or how you can become involved at okyomusic.org



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The Oklahoma Arts Council is an agency of state government.



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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[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
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[Kristin Geist](#)

Conductor,
Chamber Orchestra
&
Festival Strings OKC



[Jamee Hale](#)

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[Ashleigh Holmes](#)

Percussion
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[Dr. Matthew Mailman](#)

Conductor,
Oklahoma
Youth Winds



[Peter Markes](#)

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Summer Symphony
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[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
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OKLAHOMA YOUTH ORCHESTRAS

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*Artistic Director &
OYO Conductor*

Dr. Clifton Evans

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,

Dr. Clifton Evans
Artistic Director



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

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With performances by Festival Winds and Festival Strings

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WINTER CONCERT SERIES

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2026 TIME TBD

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2026 TIME TBD

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With performances by Sinfonia and Chamber Orchestra

SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2026 TIME TBD

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With performances by Festival Winds and Festival Strings

SPRING CONCERT SERIES

SEASON FINALE CONCERTS

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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.

PLAY IT FORWARD

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

Click [HERE](#) to learn more.

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
Chair, Board of Directors
Oklahoma Youth Orchestras





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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
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Thank you for helping spread the word among friends,
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adventure. Now go
have a new one.

Hakuna Matata
-Ohana

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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

We are so proud of your accomplishments,
dedication, perseverance and the young man
God is shaping you to be. We can't wait to see
the plans that God unfolds for your future.

Love,
Dad, Mom, Connor and Family



Noah
Eskridge

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

SOPHIA
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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



CORBIN REYNOLDS



ELISE BUYTEN

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

Love,
Mom, Dad & Jonah

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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
MAY 2, 2026

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Ms. Ashleigh Holmes, Coordinator
Mr. Adam Whoolery, Coordinator

Home by Sundown Ralph Hicks

Ezra Kidd, Marimba
Ashleigh Holmes, Marimba
Audrey Varner, Marimba

Crowell Suite Blue Iron Percussion

I. AB
II. Locust Post
III. Closing

Michael Corts, Lead Pan
Ahmari Sango, Lead Pan
Ethan Thomas, Lead Pan
Audrey Varner, Lead Pan
Ezra Kidd, Double Second Pans
Corbin Reynolds, Double Second pans
Isaiah Cole, Triple Guitars Pans
Patrick Markes, Electric Bass
Adam Whoolery, Drumset
Asa Byrne, Engine Room
Emily Harl, Engine Room
Ashleigh Holmes, Engine Room

SINFONIA

Ms. Courtney Monk, Conductor
Ms. Hope Bruening, Strings Coach

Burst! Brian Balmages

Creatures Brian Balmages

Goblins & Ghouls Katie O'Hara LaBrie

CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Ms. Kristin Geist, Conductor
Ms. Hope Bruening, Strings Coach

Insomnia Peter Sciaino

Chapter One Carold Nunez

Mystère Shirl Jae Atwell

221B Baker Street Jeffery S. Bishop

OKLAHOMA YOUTH PHILHARMONIC

Mr. Jeremy Scott, Guest Conductor

Pachelbel's Rhapsody (Overture) Gioacchino Rossini /
arr. Carrie Lane Gruselle

Of Glorious Plumage Richard Meyer

Taifu Chris Pilsner

St. Paul's Suite, IV. Finale (The Dragon) Gustav Holst

William Tell Finale Gioacchino Rossini /
arr. Percy Hall

OKLAHOMA YOUTH ORCHESTRA

Dr. Clifton Evans, Conductor

Inspiration! - Festive Overture Quinn Mason

Les Préludes Franz Liszt

25/26

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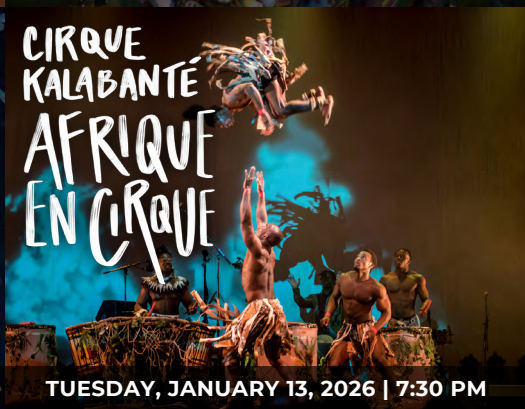
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2025 | 7:30 PM



TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2026 | 7:30 PM
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2026 | 7:30 PM



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2025 | 7:30 PM



TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 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*.

The competition is open to all seniors in Dr. Evans' OYO and Percussion Ensemble. The winner of the Prize will perform as a soloist with OYO and will receive a scholarship prize. The application window for the 2025-26 competition has closed and winners will be announced later this fall.

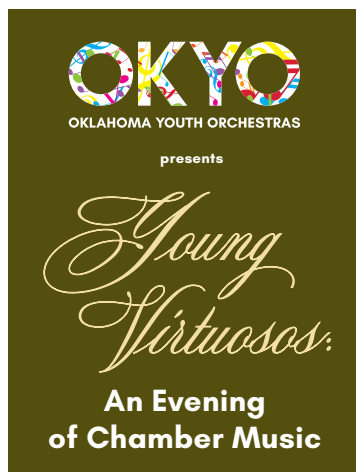
Sponsored by longtime OKYO supporter, Dr. Lin-Lin Liu, the competition's name was changed to honor her former teacher. "Miss Waldorf was my violin teacher when I was a member of OYO. At the time, Chickasha Public Schools did not have a strings program and she worked very hard to make sure I could play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

COMING IN SPRING 2026

After great success with our inaugural Young Virtuosos event last spring, we look forward to planning and announcing our 2026 date. Stay tuned!

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.

For a list of 2025 sponsors and supporters, please visit [pages 66-67](#).



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 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
Eden Bales
Lila Bales
Elise Buyten
Serena Cai
Danzel Chen
Nathan Fenech
Nina Hsu
Lauren Kim
Joshua Li
Maria Monsalve
Izri Lam
Sophia Stoops #
Abby Tai §
Ning Tay
Emalyn Terry
Hannah Wang

VIOLIN II

Makayla Bostwick
Madeline Braun
Melody Chen
Kinley Collum
Silas Emrich
Noah Eskridge
Troy Garcia
Elise McNair ^
Clara Ripka
Tatum Rodriguez
Emme Shum
Tammy Wang
Chase Wilt
Emmy Xiang
Kelvin Xie
Joy Yang
Nicklas Yong
Jiho Yoon #

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
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Cassie Solorzano
Noah Taylor
Avery Wiggins

BASS

Nathan Kim
Patrick Markes ^
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Grace Goodin
Sofia Pico Rodriguez *
Carly Rogers *

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Asa Borjas
Ayson Thelin ^

CLARINET

Elaina Ballje ^
Eisley Cink
AJ Miller

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Cooper Perkins ^
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Ajeet Singh ^+

HARP

Ryan Batt ^+

PERCUSSION

Asa Byrne
Isaiah Cole
Corbin Reynolds ^
Audrey Varner

OYO CONDUCTING ASSISTANT

Chau Hoang,
Graduate
Conducting Student,
Oklahoma City
University

Emma Neasby,
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.



Jeremy Scott

Guest Conductor,
Oklahoma
Youth Philharmonic

*"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
Katherine Christiansen
Laura Clausen
Emily Emrich
Stella Hong §
Naomi Jacques
Vincent Li
Erin Paik
Sarina Phung
Delynda Roberts
Natalie Ross
LaraLiz Schellenberg
Addie Shum
Grayson Stone
Ellie Taylor
Waverly Toomoth
Hannah Tseng
Oliver White
Natalie Wyo

VIOLIN II

Mariel Carvallo
Kevin Cruz
Catherine Dunn
Ivan Fu
Evelyn Gardocki
Elise Huang
Callista Jensen
Samiyah Loper
Alexandria Monciffe
Charity Prentice
Pranesh Ramakrishnan
Jade Ranum
Stella Rosenhamer
Reese Sanders
Sabina Stanfield ^
Celine Tan
Ava Tu
Lilia VanNoy
Anna Wilson

VIOLA

Sydnee Alfred +
M.J. Andes ^
Mollie Billheimer
Finn Dawson +
Dylan Hoang +
Maggie Kershen
Johann Koffi +
Connor McLain
Helen Ni
Olivia Ross
Josephine Shelton
Maddex Tran +

CELLO

Daphne Goodrich
Phoebe Goodrich ^
Zoe Hsu
William Kempf
Elizabeth Kwok
Avelyn Pitts
Kurtis Wenzel

BASS

Nathan Kim +
Ava Martinez ^
Michael Scott +
Jeremy Vyo +

§ Concertmaster

^ Principal

+ Guest Performer

*Students are listed
alphabetically.*



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!"

Watch for the student roster in the February 1, 2025 Winter Concert program.

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





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.

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:

PERCUSSIONISTS

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

TIMPANI
XYLOPHONE
CYMBALS
TRIANGLE
SNARE DRUM
BASS DRUM

TAMBOURINE
MARACAS
GONG
CHIMES
PIANO
HARP

*Students are listed
alphabetically.*



Michael Corts

Percussion
Coordinator



Ashleigh Holmes

Percussion
Coordinator



Adam Whoolery

Percussion
Coordinator





OKLAHOMA YOUTH ORCHESTRAS

Outstanding Students. Amazing Music.

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 Kinnamon
Kenneth Nguyen
Ethan Schulke
Simone Subieta-Lazarte
Sailesh Swamidurai

VIOLIN II

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

VIOLA

Isaac Bishop
Kiera Chao ^
Julia Glancy
Asher Imse
Virginia Kemper

CELLO

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

BASS

Michael Berg ^
Holland Champney
Riley Merrick

§ Concertmaster

^ Principal

*Students are listed
alphabetically.*





OKLAHOMA YOUTH ORCHESTRAS

Outstanding Students. Amazing Music.

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
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
Sumaq Maqqe ^
Vedera Martinez
Catherine Morton
Jackson Phelps
Kandis Sorrell

VIOLA

Morgan Benson
Mya Blanchard ^
Lily Jackson
Ruby McVay
Elise Monk
Isabella Rodriguez Gonzalez
Jackson Sweeney
Kylie Williams

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.*





OKLAHOMA YOUTH ORCHESTRAS

Outstanding Students. Amazing Music.

NON-AUDITIONED ENSEMBLES

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 Akagha](#)

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.



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



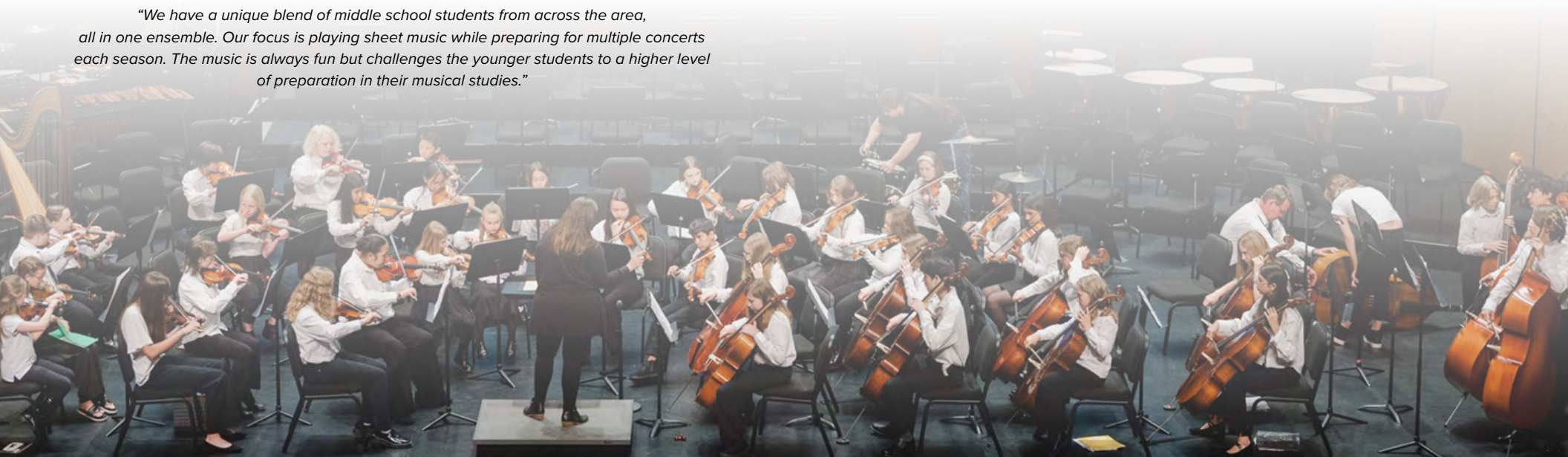
[Gena Alexander](#)

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."





OKLAHOMA YOUTH ORCHESTRAS

Outstanding Students. Amazing Music.

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.

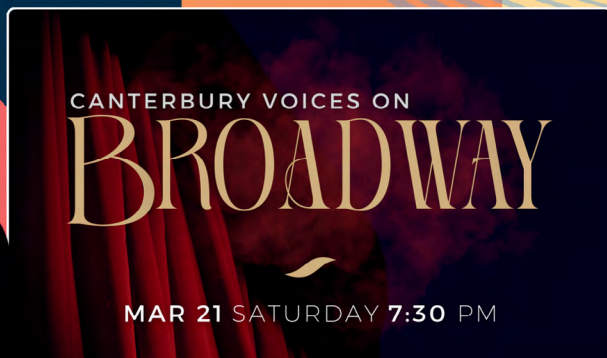


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OKLAHOMA YOUTH ORCHESTRAS
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Oklahoma Youth Philharmonic Conductor Search Underway

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:

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CHARLES DRURY
CHANDLER FADERO
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SCOTT MEREDITH

CHAVDAR PARASHKEVOV
TYLER SHEPHERD
EMILY STOOPS
KATE PRITCHETT
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:

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WHITTIER MIDDLE SCHOOL
NORMAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

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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

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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, 2024 and October 31, 2025:

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in memory of Michael Reaves

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SUPPORTER \$500 — \$999

Steve Agee
*in honor of Kristen Agee
(former OYO Concertmistress)*

Jose Batty 

Anna McMillin
in honor of Kris Markes

Oklahoma County Bar Association
in honor of Professor Joseph Thai

David Wilson and Karen Ross

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Carolyn Wade

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in honor of Paula Swing

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Judy Schroeder

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Lori Wilson

Jared Woolly

Ji Yan

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WITH GRATITUDE TO ALL OUR 2025 OYO EUROPEAN TOUR SUPPORTERS

Every gift played an essential role in helping us achieve our fundraising goals for OYO's European Tour in June 2025. Thanks to all the support, our OYO students had the opportunity to visit the heart of classical music.

Exploring cities steeped in music history, learning new cultures, and performing in iconic orchestral halls of Prague, Vienna, and Salzburg – provided these gifted musicians with invaluable experiences that will certainly remain with them for a lifetime.

Our inaugural **Young Virtuosos: An Evening of Chamber Music** event last spring was an overwhelming success! So much so, that OKYO has decided to make it an annual fundraising event to support music education and special opportunities for OKYO students.

Plans for the Spring 2026 event will be underway soon. If you would like to learn more about sponsorships for this event, or are interested in volunteering, please contact please contact our Executive Director, Kris Markes, at kris@okyomusic.org.



OKLAHOMA YOUTH ORCHESTRAS

presents

*Young
Virtuosos:*

**An Evening
of Chamber Music**



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	PAGE
Allied Arts	9
American Fidelity Foundation	15
Armstrong Auditorium	41
ASTA (American String Teachers Association)	25
Brevard Music Festival	33
Brightmusic	33
Jeffrey Buyten, MD (Oklahoma Otolaryngology Associates, LLC)	28
Canterbury Voices	60
Corbishley Violins	32
Double Stop Fiddle Shop	41
Edmond Music / Larsen Music / Gilliam Music	25
Essential Accupuncture	32
Gardner Tanenbaum	4
Geib Music	27
Inter-City Violin Studios	70
Mid-America String Quartet	29
OCCC Visual and Performing Arts Center	36
OAI Quartz Mountain	29
Oklahoma Arts Council	8
Oklahoma City Community Foundation	17
Oklahoma City Philharmonic	32
Oklahoma City University School of Music & Theatre	24
Oral Surgery Specialists of Oklahoma	2
The Lowe Group	37
The SNL Booth	37
The Tuneful Tech	29
Unity Captive	16
The University of Oklahoma School of Music	40
The University of Kansas School of Music	25
University of Central Oklahoma College of Fine Arts & Design	69
Valliance Bank	16

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!

	PAGE
Family Ads	30-31



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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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