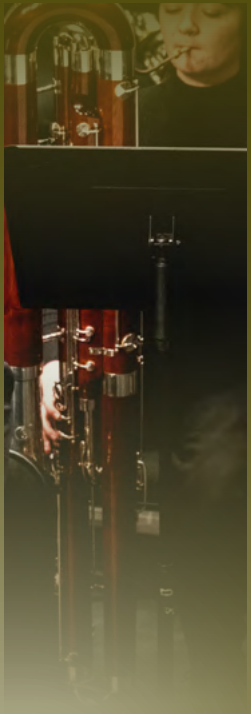
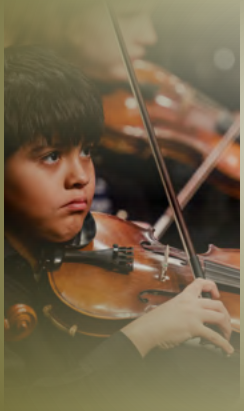
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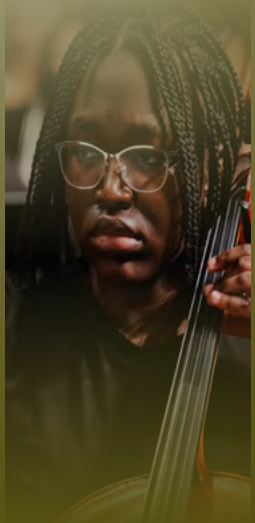






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Need to visit our office? To plan your visit, click here and scroll to the bottom of the page.

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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TABLE OF CONTENTS

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
Honoring Dr. John Clinton . . . 18
Artistic Director's Letter . . . 19
2026-27 Season Performance Schedule . . . 20-21
OKYO Play It Forward™ Campaign . . . 22
Board Chair's Letter . . . 23
Executive Director's Letter . . . 26
Celebrating Kris Markes . . . 27
Thank You from OKYO . . . 31
In Loving Memory: Barbara Mize . . . 33
Fall Season Opening Concert Series Programs . . . 34-37
The Louise Francelia Waldorf Prize . . . 40
OKYO Merchandise . . . 40
Navigating Music in Higher Ed Event . . . 41
OKYO/TYS Summer Tour 2027 . . . 44
OKYO Virtual Holiday Auction . . . 45
OKYO Alumni Night . . . 46
2027 Young Virtuosos:An Evening of Chamber Music . . . 47
Chamber Music Ensembles Highlights . . . 50-51
OKYO Auditioned Ensembles & Rosters:
- Oklahoma Youth Orchestra (OYO) . . . 54-55
- Oklahoma Youth Philharmonic (OYP) . . . 56-57
- Oklahoma Youth Winds (OYW) . . . 58-59
- Percussion Ensemble . . . 60-61
- Chamber Orchestra . . . 62-63
- Sinfonia . . . 64-65

OKYO Non-Audtioned Ensembles & Rosters:
- Festival Winds . . . 66-67
- Festival Strings: Edmond, Oklahoma City & Norman . . . 68-69
- Summer Symphony Strings Camp (SSSC) . . . 70-71

Our Community Supporters . . . 72-73
Conductor's Circle Members . . . 74-75
OKYO Audtions & Enrollment . . . 76-77
Advertiser's Listing . . . 78

OUR STORY

DEVELOPING EXCELLENCE IN EVERY STUDENT

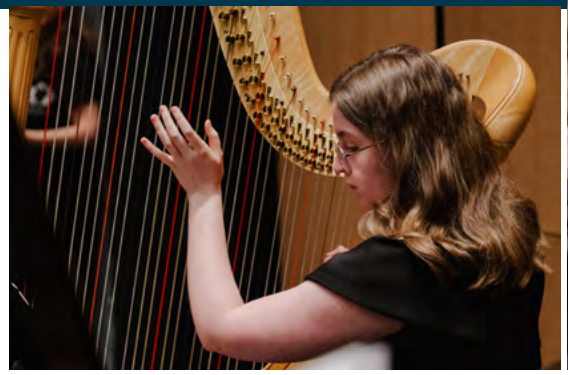
Oklahoma Youth Orchestras (OKYO) prides itself on offering arts education programs to meet the needs of young musicians in elementary through high school with ensembles designed for all abilities, providing a fun, dynamic, and supportive environment where they are inspired to pursue their passion for 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 11 ensembles, programs and a summer camp that serve a diverse student body of over 450 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
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**

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Click to learn more about our Board and Advisory Council Members

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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

OKYO
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THE ARTISTIC & ADMINISTRATIVE TEAMS

ARTISTIC TEAM



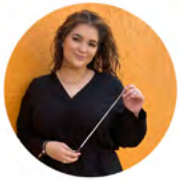
Dr. Clifton Evans
Artistic Director, Oklahoma Youth Orchestras
&
Conductor, Oklahoma Youth Orchestra



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Conductor,
Festival Winds



Andrew Barrington
Coach,
Oklahoma Youth
Philharmonic
Winds & Brass



Hope Bruening
Coach,
Young Strings



Michael Corts
Percussion
Conductor



Brian Dunagan
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Festival Strings
Edmond



Kristin Geist
Conductor,
Chamber Orchestra
&
Festival Strings OKC



Jamee Hale
Coach,
Festival Winds



Ashleigh Holmes
Percussion
Coordinator



Dr. Alex Lee
Conductor,
Oklahoma
Youth Philharmonic



Dr. Matthew Mailman
Conductor,
Oklahoma
Youth Winds



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Strings Camp



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Conductor,
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Director



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Program Manager/
Concerts & Logistics



Emily Harl
Intern



Dylan Tierney
Graduate Conducting
Assistant 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 2026-2027 school year) who have been playing for at least one year and can read music. Best of all, NO audition is required!

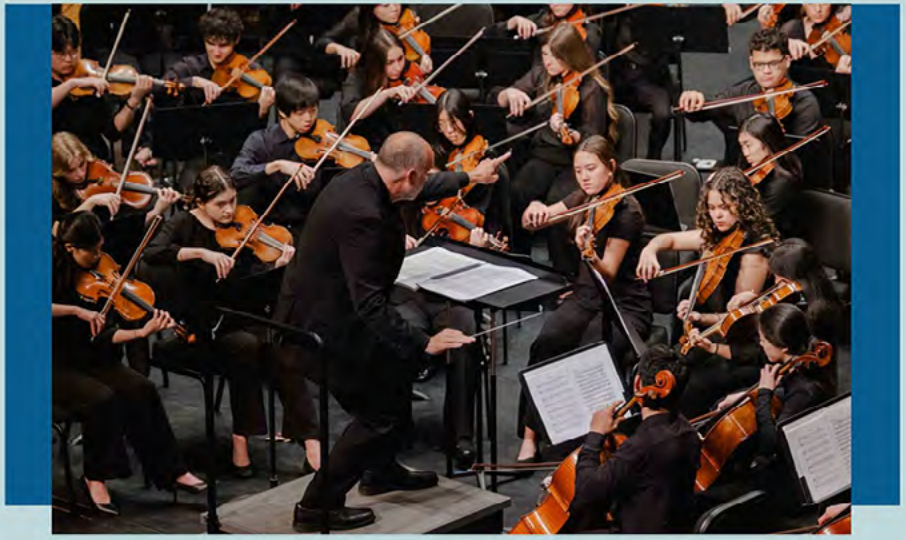
What do we do each day? Students participate in orchestra rehearsals and have special coaching time with each section, all led by some of the metro area's best music educators. In addition, we take advantage of our unique downtown location and participate in daily "Arts Experience" field trips.

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 2026, 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, and a special performance by Irish specialty band, Lady & the Rovers. Daily field trips around downtown, included guided tours of OKCMOA, EMBARK Streetcar Tour, 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 now for the 2027 Summer Symphony String Camp: June 14 - 18!

Click here to learn more about this fun learning adventure!



INSPIRING YOUTH THROUGH MUSIC

Allied Arts is proud to support Oklahoma Youth Orchestras as it inspires the next generation of leaders through excellence in music education and performance. Together, we are helping young Oklahomans discover their potential, strengthen their skills, and experience the transformative power of the arts.

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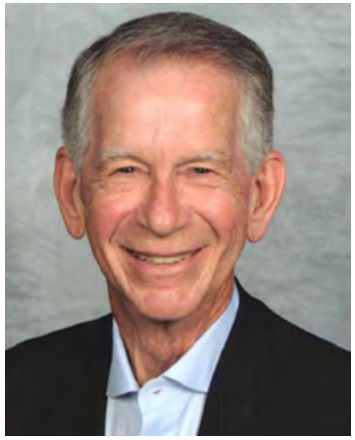
Making Music Together

Oklahoma Youth Orchestra is supported by the Everett Family Fund at the Oklahoma City Community Foundation.

OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

2026 BETTY UTTER COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD HONOREE

We are honored to recognize our Conductor Emeritus, Dr. John Clinton, as a 2026 Betty Utter Community Impact Award honoree through the League of American Orchestras.



Dr. John Clinton
Conductor Emeritus, Oklahoma Youth Orchestra

For 23 years, Dr. Clinton led the Oklahoma Youth Orchestra ensemble with vision, dedication, and an unwavering commitment to musical excellence. Under his direction, generations of young musicians experienced the rewards of challenging repertoire, extraordinary performances, and opportunities that expanded their musical and personal horizons.

His influence extends far beyond the conductor's podium. Through his continued involvement with OKYO, Dr. Clinton remains an important part of our musical family and our Advisory Board, generously sharing the knowledge, experience, and passion that have helped shape our organization.

We are deeply grateful for his remarkable contributions to OKYO and the lasting impact he has made on generations of students.

Please join us in honoring Dr. Clinton and this well-deserved recognition!

Follow this link to learn more about the Betty Utter Community Impact Award and its honorees

Dear Oklahoma Youth Orchestra Community,

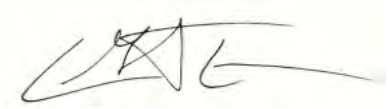
What an honor it is to address you in my second year now as Artistic Director of the Oklahoma Youth Orchestras! I continue to feel deeply grateful for your steadfast support, which has been the key component that enables OKYO to fulfill its mission of fostering creativity, teamwork and leadership through a strong commitment to excellence in music.

Reflecting on our journey together, the past year was full of remarkable music-making and great progress as an organization. Among the key developments was the welcoming of multiple new members to our amazing faculty and staff, highlighted by the addition of Dr. Alex Lee as director of OYP. Executive Director Kris Markes was also honored as the recipient of the 2026 Deborah McAuliffe Senner Excellence in Arts Education Award from Allied Arts! For OYO and me, performing Shostakovich's remarkable Symphony No. 5 stood out as a personal highlight of the season. Countless other memorable moments showcase how much we have accomplished together and set a wonderful foundation for our ongoing work.

Building on these successes, our momentum promises to carry us into an extraordinarily bright future as an organization! OYO will be touring New York this June to play at one of the most prestigious venues in the world, Carnegie Hall, and attend a performance of the NY Philharmonic playing Beethoven's Symphony No. 9! Additionally, plans are underway for our 50th anniversary season next year, which will feature a world premiere of a work commissioned by OKYO, a concert appearance in the Civic Center in downtown OKC, and an opportunity for alumni to join us on a performance as well. Details of all these exciting ventures will be forthcoming soon!

We look forward to another vibrant year of wonderful music-making, shared artistic and personal growth, and life-changing memories together. Thank you for joining us, and please enjoy the concert!

Warmest regards,



Dr. Clifton Evans
Artistic Director, Oklahoma Youth Orchestras



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2026-27 SEASON PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Season Presenting Concert Sponsor: Richard & Glenna Tanenbaum

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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 16, 2026 - 7:15PM
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

WINTER CONCERT SERIES

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2027 - TIME TBD
Oklahoma CIty University - Wanda L. Bass School of Music - Petree Recital Hall
2501 N. Blackwelder, Oklahoma City
With performances by Sinfonia and Chamber Orchestra

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2027 - TIME TBD
Oklahoma City Community College - Performing Arts Theatre
7777 S. May Ave, Oklahoma City
With performances by OYW, OYP, OYO and Percussion

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2027 - 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 25, 2027 - TIME TBD
Oklahoma City Community College - Performing Arts Theatre
7777 S. May Ave, Oklahoma City
With performances by Festival Strings, Sinfonia, Chamber Orchestra, OYP and Percussion

SUNDAY, MAY 2, 2027 - TIME TBD
Oklahoma City Community College - Performing Arts Theatre
7777 S. May Ave, Oklahoma City
With performances by Festival Winds, OYW, OYO and Percussion

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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.

Thank You for Making Our 2026 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 2026-27 season with a tax deductible gift.

Click HERE to learn more.

DONATE NOW

Welcome to the 2026-27 season of Oklahoma Youth Orchestras! As Chair of the Board of Directors, and as an OKYO alumnus, I can tell you this season is one to remember.

Dr. Clifton Evans begins his second year as Artistic Director, and together with Executive Director Kris Markes, he has lined up our biggest season yet. Our students are headed to New York City to perform at Carnegie Hall! We're gearing up for OKYO's 50th anniversary, and through new partnerships with Brightmusic and guest artists from across the country, our students are learning from some of the best in the field. This is a season you'll want to be part of from the first downbeat.

I started with OKYO as a high school viola player, and I was only able to participate because of financial aid. That support opened the door for me, and my experience with OKYO ultimately led to a full music scholarship at Oklahoma City University. It's why I believe no student who wants to play should ever be turned away because of cost. I know firsthand the lasting impact OKYO can have on a young musician, and I want every student to have the same chance to grow, discover their potential, and carry their love of music forward.

To our families, alumni, donors, and community partners - Thank You, with special thanks to Dick and Glenna Tanenbaum, our Season Presenting Sponsors. Here's my ask for this season: come to a concert and bring someone who has never heard OKYO play. Bid in our online auction December 1-8, and join us for Young Virtuosos on March 7, 2027. Every ticket, bid, and gift helps keep tuition affordable and our programs open to every student in Oklahoma.

From all of us at OKYO, welcome back and enjoy the music!
De parte de todos en OKYO, ¡bienvenidos de nuevo y disfruten la música!

Sincerely,



Ulises Serrano
Chair, Board of Directors
Oklahoma Youth Orchestras



Congratulations to all this season's members of Oklahoma Youth Orchestras

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DECEMBER 5, 2026

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JANUARY 15-16, 2027

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FEBRUARY 19-20, 2027

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MARCH 19-20, 2027

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FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

Welcome to Oklahoma Youth Orchestras' 49th season! We look forward to another exciting year filled with exceptional young musicians, inspiring performances, and the joy of making music together. We are delighted to welcome back our returning families and are excited to have so many new students and families joining our growing OKYO community.

This season brings exciting possibilities for OKYO, including OYO's June performance at Carnegie Hall, an extraordinary experience for our young musicians. Throughout the year, students across all of our ensembles will benefit from special performance opportunities, musical collaborations, and experiences that enrich their development as musicians. We are also looking forward to our 3rd Annual Young Virtuosos event, an important initiative that helps sustain our educational programs and provide scholarships to students.

OKYO continues to thrive as a vibrant arts organization, nurturing young musicians from communities across the region. We are proud to maintain 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 Ensemble. Together, we are 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. These are skills that last a lifetime, both on and off the stage. For so 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 inspiring growth or these incredible opportunities would be possible without the generous support of our Board, staff, conductors, coaches, families, donors, and entire community. Thank you for everything you do to support OKYO and our young musicians!



With gratitude,

Kris Markes
Executive Director

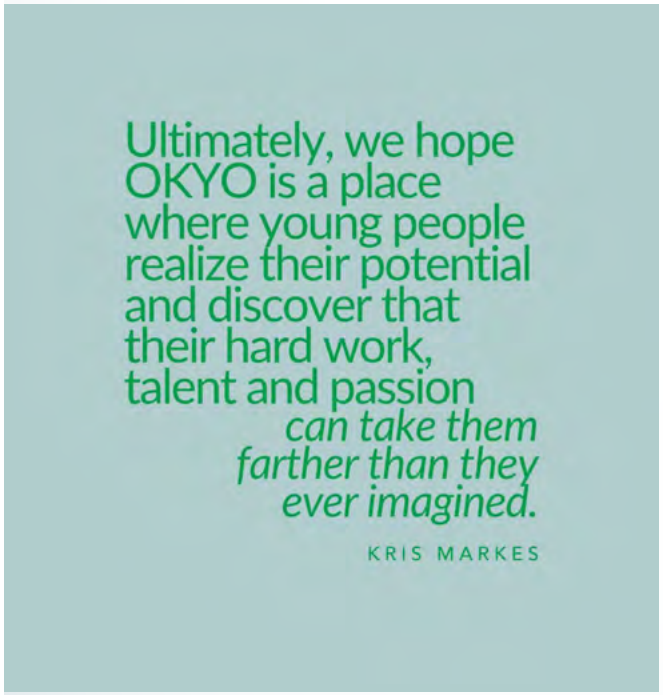
CELEBRATING KRIS MARKES

2026 DEBORAH MCAULIFFE SENNER EXCELLENCE IN ARTS EDUCATION AWARD

We are incredibly proud to celebrate our Executive Director, Kris Markes, as the recipient of this prestigious honor presented annually by Allied Arts.

At Oklahoma Youth Orchestras, we witness firsthand the passion, dedication, and vision Kris brings to our organization. Her leadership helps create an environment where young musicians are encouraged to challenge themselves, develop meaningful connections, and discover possibilities beyond the concert stage.

We are grateful for her unwavering commitment to our students, our mission, and the transformative power of music education.







Please join us in congratulating Kris on this richly deserved recognition!

THANK YOU FOR THE VOTES!

Oklahoma Youth Orchestras is honored to have been named by Metro Family magazine as their Reader's Choice Family Favorites 2026 winner for Favorite Music Program.

We appreciate everyone who voted for us and hope you all enjoy all the great events, programs and performances scheduled for this 2026-2027 Season!

Favorite Music Program
Oklahoma Youth Orchestra

Runners up

Metro Family Magazine Family Favorites 2026 Reader's Choice

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ASTA Certificate Advancement Program (ASTACAP)

ASTACAP Certificate Advancement Program

What is ASTACAP?

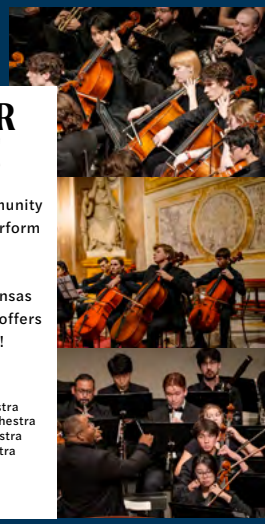
- Specific goals and awards to students through non-competitive examinations offered at eleven levels of accomplishment for bowed strings and harp
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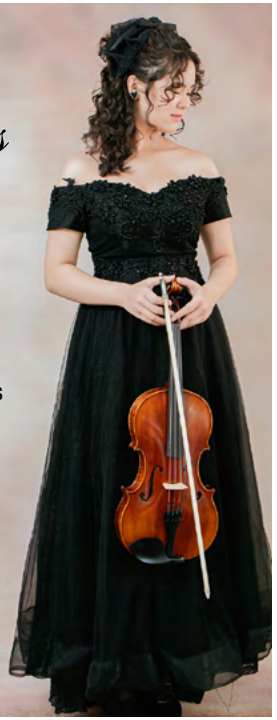
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Lara Reams

Congratulations, Lara!
We are so proud of the musician and person you've become.
Your accomplishments have brought honor and joy to our family.
Class of 2027!
Keep playing and follow your dreams!
Love,
Papa, Mama, and Sophia



William,
We are so proud of you and all that you have accomplished!
Congratulations Senior 2027!
Love,
Mom and Sister



BE A PART OF THE MUSIC

Check out the Spring Concert program for information about auditions for the 2027-28 season:

okyomusic.org/audition-requirements

OKYO
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Sophia Reams

Bravo, Sophia!
We are so very proud of and humbled by your talents and accomplishments.
Your music has brought so much joy to our lives.
Congratulations, Class of 2027!
Keep marching to your tune!
Love,
Papa, Mama, and Lara

THANK YOU!

To our wonderful students and families, THANK YOU for helping to make this another extraordinary season for Oklahoma Youth Orchestras! Your enthusiasm and continued support mean the world to us. You are our greatest advocates, our most enthusiastic fans, and an essential part of the OKYO family.

Because of your efforts in sharing the joy of music with your friends, family, and community, we are welcoming even more young musicians this season than last, making this one of our largest seasons yet!

Bravo! Well Done!

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DECEMBER
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IN LOVING MEMORY



BARBARA MIZE

November 29, 1949 – October 10, 2026

With deep appreciation and heartfelt sadness, we remember Barbara Mize, a cherished friend and longtime supporter of Oklahoma Youth Orchestras.

Barbara's love of orchestral music was matched by her commitment to helping young musicians discover its beauty and possibilities. Together with her husband, Mike, she supported our organization for many years, dating back to its days as the Guy Fraser Harrison Academy for the Performing Arts.

Through their enduring generosity and encouragement, Barbara and Mike helped sustain opportunities for young musicians to learn, perform, and experience the joy of making music together.

We are profoundly grateful for Barbara's friendship, her devotion to our mission, and the lasting difference she made in our musical community.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to Mike and their family, with the knowledge that Barbara's love of music will continue to resonate through the generations of young musicians she helped inspire.

With gratitude, we remember.
Through music, her legacy lives on.

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FALL CONCERT SERIES: SEASON OPENING PERFORMANCES

Featuring a Pre-Concert Masterclass with Violinist Yoojin Jang

Season Presenting Concert Sponsor: Richard and Glenna Tanenbaum



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2026 — 4:00PM
OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
PERFORMING ARTS THEATRE

PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

Mr. Michael Corts, Conductor
Ms. Ashleigh Holmes, Coordinator
Mr. Nick Rainey, Coordinator
Mr. Noah Keifer, Intern

Aguas da Amazonia: I. Japurá River . . . . . Phillip Glass/ arr. Third Coast Percussion

Pajarito . . . . . Ivan Trevino

SINFONIA

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

The Explorers . . . . . Keith Sharp

Dark Journey . . . . . Doug Spata

Voyager . . . . . Soon Hee Newbold

CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

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

Waltz of the Wicked . . . . . Kirt N. Mosier

Modus à 4 . . . . . Shirl Jae Atwell

The Odyssey (Journey of Odysseus) . . . . . Soon Hee Newbold

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

OKLAHOMA YOUTH ORCHESTRAS
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FALL CONCERT SERIES: SEASON OPENING PERFORMANCES

Season Presenting Concert Sponsor: Richard and Glenna Tanenbaum

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2026 — 4:00PM
OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
PERFORMING ARTS THEATRE

OKLAHOMA YOUTH PHILHARMONIC
Dr. Alex Lee, Conductor

Marriage of Figaro Overture . . . . . Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart/ arr. Jamin Hoffman

Serenade for String Orchestra, Op. 20, Mvt. I & II. . . . . Edward Elgar

Golden . . . Ejae, Mark Sonnenblick, Ido, 24, and Teddy Park/arr. Paul Murtha

Beauty and the Beast . . . . . Alan Menken/arr. Calvin Custer

La Cascara . . . . . Jeremy Woolstenhulme

OKLAHOMA YOUTH ORCHESTRA
Dr. Clifton Evans, Conductor

Poet and Peasant Overture . . . . . Franz von Suppé'

Romeo and Juliet (Overture-Fantasia) . . . . . Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2026 — 7:15PM
OKLAHOMA CITY UNIVERSITY
WANDA L. BASS SCHOOL OF MUSIC

FESTIVAL WINDS
Ms. Janey Akagha, Conductor
Ms. Jamee Hale, Coach

Oklahoma! . . . . Oscar Hammerstein II & Richard Rogers/arr. Johnnie Vinson

Traffic Jam . . . . . Timothy Loest

Song for Friends . . . . . Larry Deahn

Tempest . . . . . Robert W. Smith

Thunderstruck . . . . . Malcolm Mithcell Young & Angus McKinnon Young/ arr. Matt Conaway & Matt Finger

with guitarist, Francisco Venegas, OKYO's Program Manager/ Concerts & Logistics

FESTIVAL STRINGS
Mr. Brian Dunagan, FS Edmond Conductor
Ms. Kristin Geist, FS OKC Conductor
Mr. Mark Osborn, FS Norman Conductor

Colossus . . . . . Larry Clark

Mississippi Cakewalk . . . . . Mark Williams

Hannibal in the Alps . . . . . Joseph Compello

Legend of Dark Mountain . . . . . Soon Hee Newbold

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

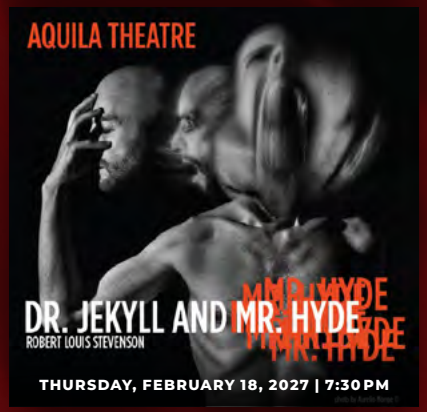
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THE LOUISE FRANCELIA WALDORF PRIZE FOR EXCELLENCE IN SOLO PERFORMANCE

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 2026-27 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.

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Order Pickup: Dec 7



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SNACKS WILL BE PROVIDED, PLEASE RSVP BY NOVEMBER 9

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UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

Summer Tour 2027: New York City

Oklahoma Youth Orchestras and Tulsa Youth Symphony are taking their talents to New York City next summer.

Together, OKYO's flagship ensemble – Oklahoma Youth Orchestra (OYO) along with TYS's most advanced ensemble – Symphony Orchestra (SO) have been invited to perform at the world-renowned Carnegie Hall and will embark on an unforgettable joint summer tour.

Many more details to come! Watch for updates all season about this spectacular opportunity for our students!



Fundraising & Direct Gifting

As part of OKYO's commitment to our students and families, we will hold a variety of events and direct giving opportunities this season to help offset costs for this musical and cultural trip.

Let's be social so you can stay in tune with OKYO for all the latest and greatest planned for this season!



Virtual Holiday Auction: December 1-8

Just in time for holiday gift buying, you can let your fingers do the shopping at this exciting event!

Featuring incredible items and packages donated from OKC businesses and beyond, this auction allows family, friends, and all your loved ones to be able to participate in this exciting online auction. ***Details for the auction will be published in our weekly newsletter, as well as on our social media.***

Have connections to businesses or organizations who would be interested in donating items or packages for this auction? Send them our way! All donations are tax-deductible based on the market value assigned by the donor. Contact us to coordinate auction donations at info@okyomusic.org.

OKLAHOMA YOUTH ORCHESTRAS
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UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

OKLAHOMA YOUTH ORCHESTRAS
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ALUMNI NIGHT
JANUARY 4, 2027
7:30 - 8:30 PM

Oklahoma City University
Wanda L. Bass School of Music

If you are an alumni of any youth orchestra, we invite you to participate in OKYO's Alumni Night. This event includes a side-by-side rehearsal with current OYO members and a reception.

CLICK TO SEND US YOUR RSVP FOR THIS NIGHT OF MUSIC, FUN, FOOD, FRIENDSHIP, AND SHARING ALL THE GREAT MEMORIES!

Young Virtuoso Night Returns in 2027!

Mark your calendars now and get ready for OKYO's premiere event of the season.

OKYO is once again proud to present Young Virtuosos: An Evening of Chamber Music — a highly-anticipated event each season.
We are pleased to announce Fordson Hotel as our returning event sponsor.

Plans are currently underway for another memorable night of excellent student performances, food, and libations in this beautiful venue.
If you are interested in volunteering or sponsorships, please click to learn more or contact our Executive Director, Kris Markes, at kris@okyomusic.org





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MARCH 2
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PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

CHAMBER MUSIC ENSEMBLES

Oklahoma Youth Orchestra's Chamber Music ensembles have kicked off this season with quite a busy performance schedule.

In addition to weekly rehearsals and regularly scheduled concerts and programs, the Chamber Music ensembles also accept bookings for special events for corporate, fellow non-profit organization, and private events. Here are four recent events at which these outstanding students performed.

Calm Waters Ripples of Hope Breakfast Fundraiser

August 18, 2026





Richard Tanenbaum's Birthday Celebration

September 25, 2026

Canterbury Voices's Opening Concert

October 16, 2026



OKCPHIL Maestro's Ball

October 17, 2026

OKYO performers featured at Maestro's Ball 2026 include: MJ Andes, Eden Bales, Lila Bales, Jamie Kang, Jayden Nguyen, Braxon Vess, and Avery Wiggins (alumna).



If you are interested in learning more about booking one of our ensembles for your upcoming event, please contact our Executive Director, Kris Markes, at kris@okyomusic.org.



26
27

CANTERBURY
VOICES

Stravinksy & Poulenc
SYMPHONY OF PSALMS & GLORIA
16 OCT

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17 OCT

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Saturday, Feb. 20, 2027
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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

VIOLIN I
Avie Bales
Lila Bales
Olivia Chantha-langsy
Ivan Fu
Stella Hong
Nina Hsu #
Asher Jewell
Izri Lam
Elise McNair
Maria Monsalve
Jayden Nguyen
Pranesh Ramak-rishnan
Sabina Stanfield
Grayson Stone
Sophia Stoops §
Hannah Tseng
Anna Wilson
Natalie Wyro
Kelvin Xie
Elly Zhu

VIOLIN II
Eden Bales ^
Makayla Bostwick
Lucy Bradley
Laura Clausen
Kevin Cruz
Troy Garcia
Evelyn Gardocki
Erin Paik
Charity Prentice
Jade Ranum
Clara Ripka #
Addie Shum
Sherlyn Tan
Ellie Taylor
Waverly Toomoth
Tammy Wang
Chase Wilt
Emmy Xiang
Nicklas Yong

VIOLA
Denny Alvarez
M.J. Andes
Mollie Billheimer
BellaRose Black
Kiera Chao
Elina Ji
Zurie Jones
Earl Landswick
Natalie Lewis
Jessica Liu
Leon Nguyen #
Helen Ni
Lara Reams ^

CELLO
Alyssa Chanthalangsy
Maria Belen Castillo Fajardo
Ely Gonzalez ^
Daphne Goodrich
Phoebe Goodrich
Jamie Kang #
William Kempf
Noah Koo
Olivia Lao-Alvarado
Samuel Mosley
Fahim Nazir
Abigail Nguyen
Cassie Solorzano
Noah Taylor
Kurtis Wenzel

BASS
Ethan Goble +
Nathan Hobbs +
Ava Martinez
Mason McAllister ^
Riley Merrick #

FLUTE/PICCOLO
Zoey Businelle *
Addison Grounds *
Sophia Reams
Audrey Zhang

OBOE/ ENGLISH HORN
Asa Borjas
Audrey Rice ^
Harper Ruhl

CLARINET
Kennedy Epplin *
Olivia Han *
Knox Harder
Izabella Young

BASSOON
Quinn Mosher *
Jake Rankin *

HORN
Nicholas Frattinger
Dylan Freeman
Michael Pulliam +
Lane Voelkel ^

TRUMPET
Evan Goodson *
Jayden Miller
Royce Vandiver
Braxon Vess *

TROMBONE
Vincent Markes *
Ian Monney *
Ben Wymer

TUBA
Barrett Pratt ^

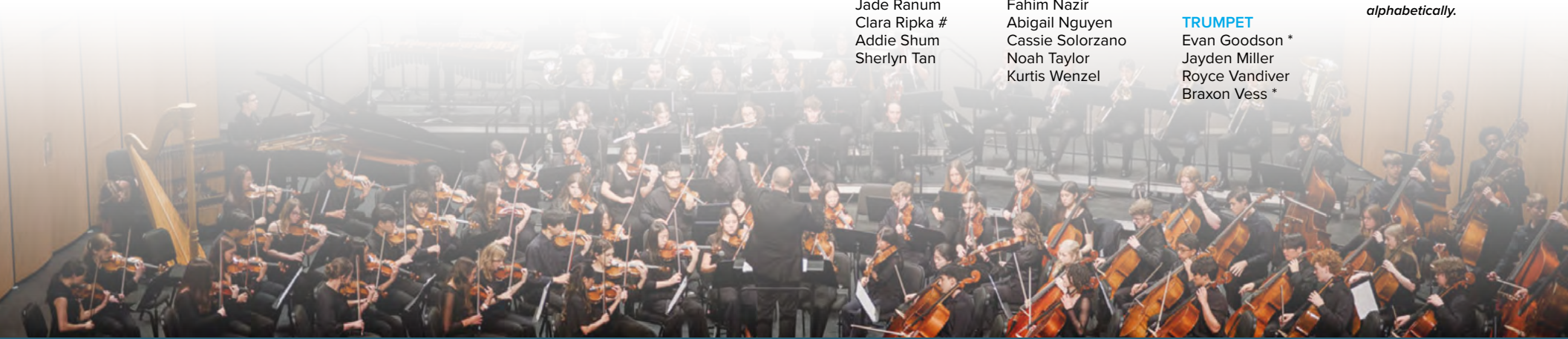
HARP
Ryan Batt +

PERCUSSION
Asa Byrne *
Audrey Varner *
Kaedyn Walker

OYO CONDUCTING ASSISTANT
Dylan Tierney, Graduate Conducting Assistant Intern

§ Concertmaster
^ Principal
*** Co-Principal**
 # Associate Principal
+ Guest Performer

Students are listed alphabetically.



OKLAHOMA YOUTH ORCHESTRAS
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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.



Dr. Alex Lee
Conductor,
Oklahoma
Youth Philharmonic

VIOLIN I
Isaac Bales §
Olivia Cai
Gabriel Chang
Austen Cole
Helen Cruz
Emily Emrich §
Nethan Fondjo
Hadley Henderson
Kaelyn Kinnamon
Austen Liu §
Ellis Oppenheim
Delynda Roberts
Reilly Robertson
Ethan Schulke
Aliyah-Rose Toves
Leo Yang

VIOLIN II
Sofia Baca-Minks
Enzo Cameron
Haze Conway
Kinsley Cui #
Catherine Dunn
Cameron Fondjo
Elise Huang
Callista Jensen
Patrick Johnsen
Vincent Li
Samiyah Loper
Helana Nechtow
Kenneth Nguyen
Natalie Ross ^
Leslie Sosa
Sailesh Swamidurai

VIOLA
Isaac Bishop
Brantley Bofferding
Asher Imse
Maggie Kershen
Elijah LeBlanc
Connor McLain
Margo Reeves ^
Olivia Ross #

CELLO
Bryan Black #
David Connelly
Amalia Cozyris ^
Allegria Florez
Elizabeth Kwok
Adriana Lottie
Joseph Maliszewski
Ayomiposi Owodunni
Celine Paik
Gabby Reed
Trinidad Rodriguez
Olivia Yoon

BASS
Michael Berg ^
Holland Champney
Kaiven Huff #
Alex Robb

PERCUSSION
Michael Corts +
Ashleigh Holmes +
Nick Rainey +
Dylan Tierney +

BRASS & WOODWIND PERSONNEL WILL JOIN THE ENSEMBLE FOR THE SECOND AND THIRD CONCERTS FOLLOWING MARCHING BAND SEASON

§ **Concertmaster**
^ **Principal**
* **Co-Principal**
\+ **OKYO Staff 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

WATCH FOR THE STUDENT ROSTER IN THE FEBRUARY 7, 2027 WINTER CONCERT PROGRAM.

SEE PAGES 20-21 FOR THE FULL SEASON CONCERT SCHEDULE.



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



Nick Rainey
Percussion Coordinator

Noah Keifer
Percussion Intern

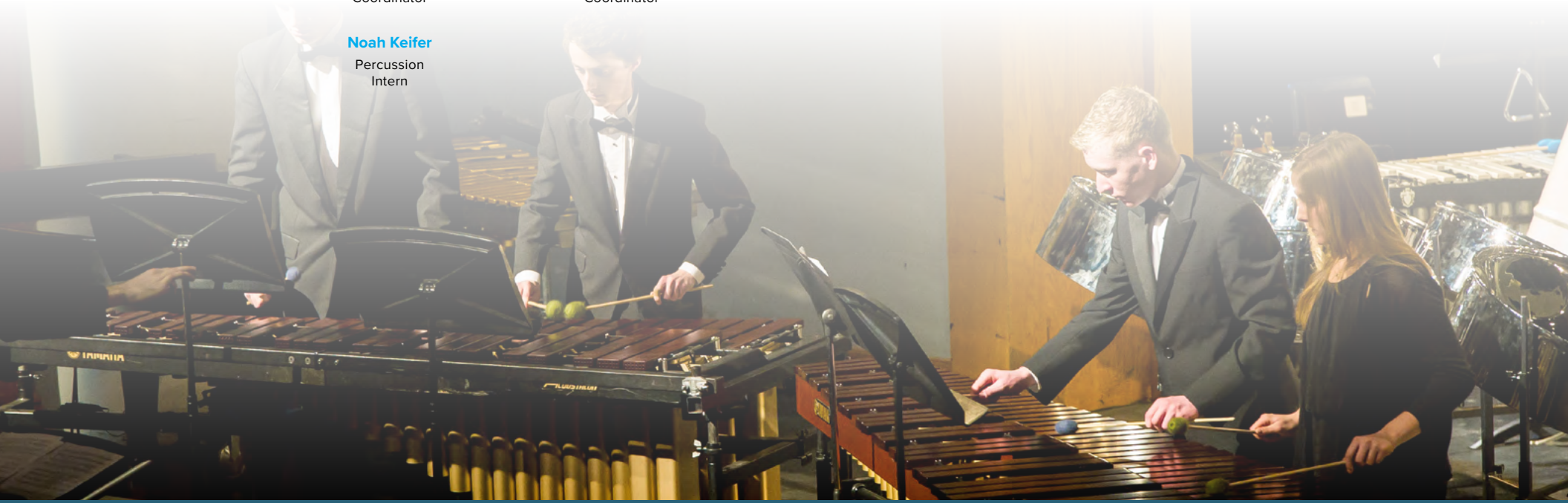
In the world of orchestras, percussionists stand out as the versatile maestros, bringing life to a single piece of music by skillfully shifting between a multitude of instruments.

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
Olivia Hamilton
Ezra Kidd
Anisha Kumar
Sydney Lower
James Puccino
Nolan Rainey
Audrey Varner
Kaedyn Walker

Students are listed alphabetically.



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AUDITIONED ENSEMBLES
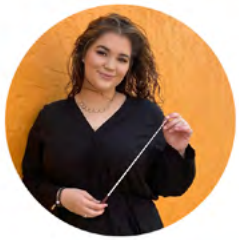
Chamber Orchestra

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
Amaar Aslam
Myla Boerger
Claire Cozyris
Taylor Jacobs
Hanah Le
Skyler Liu
Helena Luong
Caelyn McGoodwin §
Simone Subieta-Lazarte
Zoey Wenzel

VIOLIN II
Evelyn Barbour
Kayla Gray
Isabella Hernandez-Rodriguez
Amelia Kwok
Vedera Martinez
Evelyn Perez
Randy Santizo ^
Finnley Sharp
Kandis Sorrell

VIOLA
Mya Blanchard
Alexandria Cross ^
Elise Monk
Leo Prilliman
Isabella Rodriguez Gonzalez
Lillian Teel

CELLO
Joey Ceniceros
Elias Clark
Branden Cooper
Dana Florez ^
Eleanor Geist
Chloe Slane

BASS
David De La Garza ^
Robert Garrison

§ Concertmaster

^ Principal

Students are listed alphabetically.



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AUDITIONED ENSEMBLES

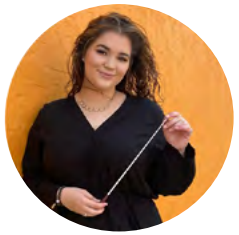
Sinfonia

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

VIOLIN
Liam Auter §
Gabriel Byrne
Lainey Combs
Alexa De Leon
Carys Dunn
Glory Enabulele
Eliza Joaquin
Jonathan Lee
Catherine Morton
Zamin Nickel
Faith Palmer
Jackson Phelps
Jacob Shin
Hunter Smith
Rory Thomas
Aydn Vega
Jessie Zhu

VIOLIN II
Violet Ellison
Sophia Fenn-Cerezo
Jiyu Han
Raahim Khan
Julie Klein
Helen Kluge
Londyn Marple
Eva Monk
Shawn Pourtorkan
Alice Qi
Alexander Simon ^
Gracie Smith
Kassandra Sorrell
Pyper Tresner
Paris Tucker

VIOLA
Logan Drabek
Emma Jensen
Maya Kenton ^
Mihika Maheshwari
Rosa Smith
Jackson Sweeney
Emma Votaw
Henry York

CELLO
Knox Champney
Julia Dasari
Philippa Deacon Wallet ^
Reagan Doss
Aliya-Kay Filabi
Kinley Fletcher
Vera Forciea
Parker Harvey
Joanna Lee
Fisher Marchant
Jossette Miranda
Keira O'Brien
Cassie Ochs
Natalie Russell

BASS
Anna Herrin
Mary Helen Martin ^

§ Concertmaster
^ Principal

Students are listed alphabetically.



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

FLUTE
Rion-Shayla Adams-Hill +
Kiera Dolan
Sophia Dronberger
Harper Fairbanks
Blaire Johnson
Theresa Moody
Sadie Ruth

OBOE
Ella Henson
Kyle Sulit +

CLARINET
Joseph Cassidy +
Eva Dadulo
Kenidy Hutchins +
Carly Merrick +
Christine Miller
Elena Roka +

BASS CLARINET
Braxston Griffin

BASSOON
Sawyer Rowland +
Skyler Wickham

ALTO SAX
Titus Morgan
Glory Painter
Graham Roberts *

TENOR SAX
Joshua Wilson +

HORN
Xavier Hughes +
Madeline Lepard
Carson Locke-McCain
Isabella Lund

TRUMPET
Owen Acosta +
Amir Anwar
Alex Le
Josué Peruch
Tyson Pelley
Cavan Kepley
Emily Swatek

TROMBONE
Peter Arvidson
Thomas Arvidson
Annabelle Eaton
Tyler Spencer

EUPHONIUM
Peter Moody
Riley Rivera

TUBA
Cruz Fisher *
Elizabeth Cowen +

PERCUSSION
Jayden Dasari
Nick Rainey ^
Nolan Rainey +
Adam de Robles
Angel Vasquez

*** Festival Winds Mentor**
+ Guest Performer
^ OKYO Staff

Students are listed alphabetically.



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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



Brian Dunagan
Conductor,
Festival Strings Edmond



Mark Osborn
Conductor,
Festival Strings Norman



Kristin Geist
Conductor,
Chamber Orchestra
&
Conductor,
Festival Strings OKC

FESTIVAL STRINGS EDMOND

VIOLIN
Owen Andrews
Riddick Bell
Ben Treat
Astrid Umhoefer

VIOLA
Reid Branham
Erik Gaudio

CELLO
Amelia Durrett
Evelyn Flores
Tinsley Gabriele
Olivia Hendricks
Nathalie Welch
Hannah Williams

BASS
Benjamin Gaudio
Elaine Metz

FESTIVAL STRINGS NORMAN

VIOLIN
Everly Blunt
Yhonna Caballero
Jaqueline Gonzalez
Easton Jenkins
Emmeline Lok
Sophie Moore
Magnolia Owens
Matteo Perez-Zurita
Eleanor Pond
William Skrdla

VIOLA
Khaya Porterfield

CELLO
Grace Giron
Simon Tirk

BASS
Grace Alinger
Elise Wyckoff

FESTIVAL STRINGS OKLAHOMA CITY

VIOLIN
Jorge Herrera
Brady Laird

BASS
Makaela Bennett

Students are listed alphabetically.



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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, OKC Ballet, and the Oklahoma City Museum of Art.

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 2027!

June 14 - June 17, 2027

Watch for future updates for registration.

Please CLICK HERE to learn more about SSSC.

THANKS TO OUR COMMUNITY SUPPORT

VOLUNTEERS

A special thank you to all the 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:

SCOTT MEREDITH
ELIZABETH ROBINSON
CHAVDAR PARASHKEVOV
CHANDLER FADERO
BETTY YUAN
EMILY STOOPS
TYLER SHEPHERD
ANTHONY STOOPS
AMIE REARDON COTTER
CARLY MERRICK
DON THOMAS
JENN BOUNDS
PETER MARKES

OKYO GUEST EDUCATORS

We look forward to welcoming and recognizing 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
EDMOND PUBLIC SCHOOLS SEQUOYAH MIDDLE SCHOOL
NORMAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS WHITTIER MIDDLE SCHOOL

PERFORMANCE VENUES

Our gratitude also goes to the facilities which 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

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 PHILHARMONIC
OKLAHOMA CONTEMPORARY
OKLAHOMA CITY MUSEUM OF ART
BRIGHTMUSIC CHAMBER ENSEMBLE

RESTAURANTS WHO PARTNERED FOR GIVE BACK NIGHTS:

PANDA EXPRESS
All locations nationwide

RAISING CANE'S
NW 23rd & Penn (OKC)
Main Street (Norman)
2nd Street (Edmond)

S&B BURGERS
Automobile Alley (OKC)

WITH GRATITUDE TO OUR CONDUCTOR 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 OKYO 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, 2026 and March 31, 2027:

MAESTRO $10,000+

Anonymous

Retired Colonel Dean and Jeanne Jackson,
in memory of Karen Vollbrecht

Richard and Glenna Tanenbaum

CONCERTMASTER $2,500 — $4,999

Claren Kidd

Dr. Lin Lin Liu

Jerry Messick, Unity Captive Solutions, LLC

Joe & Kathryn Rodano

MUSICIAN $1,000 — $2,499

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Jose Batty

Susan Bergen

Victoria Caldwell

Myra Decker

Paul & Debra Hagemeier
in honor of Rachel Hagemeier

Kris & Peter Markes
in honor of Patrick and Vincent Markes

Catherine Reaves
in memory of Michael Reaves & in honor of OKYO alum Zack Reaves

Ulises & Lindy Serrano

Jonathan & Andrea Stone

Arthur & Betty Thompson

David Woolly

SUPPORTER $500 — $999

Steve Agee
in honor of Kirsten Agee, former OYO Concertmaster

Angela Andes

Dana & Jim Bellingham

Donald Lehman & Phyllis Ford
in honor of Emily J. Emrich

Anna McMillin
in honor of Kris Markes

Debbi & Frank Merrick

Rachel Poe

William & Suzy Sultemeier

PARTNER $250-$499

Chelsea Banks

Peggy Bogardus

Louise Cleary Cannon

Emily Cozyris

Becky & Bill Duckworth

Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd Eisenhour

Vivian Eldridge

Julianna Etherington

Andrew Fagg
in honor of William McGovern-Fagg

Crystal Garcia

Danielle Herrington

Lindsay Laird

Maria Marcos

Erin Ripka

Kristy Sanders

Lucy & Gale Smith

Nathan Young

PATRON $100 — $249

Debbie Ashford
in honor of Katie Ashford

Dr. Mark & Teena Belcik

Christina Berg

Carey Bonds

Beth Boren

Matthew Craig & Kelly Lynn Offutt

Cassidy Ferguson

Kent & Hiromi Hood

Joshua & Juilanna Kershen
in honor of Andrew, Lucy & Maggie Kershen

John & Annette Kezbers
in honor of Karina Gossen

Mike & Barbara Mize
in honor of Lauren Falco

Albert Moore

Pam & Mike Mowry

Mark Osborn

Roger & Parthena Owens

Cathy Ripka

Melanie Rughani
in honor of Dr. Larry Moore

Dr. & Mrs. Carl F. Schaefer

Paulette Schroeder

Kyle Stewart

Emily Stoops

Steven Sylke

Larry & Leah Westmoreland
in honor of Dr. John Clinton

Amy Willoughby
in honor of Sydney & Skylar Willoughby

Jared Woolly

Julie Yu-Oppenheim

Amy Zuback

FRIEND $10 — $99

Shannon Blevins
in honor of Evelyn Gardocki

Paloma Cortes-Goodwyn

Jared Davis

Don & Ginny Evans

Steven Graham & Vicky Leloie Kelly

Mary Harris

Jake Johnson

Shirley Jones
in honor of Paulette Schroeder

Diane Liebl
in memory of Legh Burns

Caleb Mitchum

Courtney Monk

Janet & Robert Neely

Donna Reynolds
in honor of Paula Swing

Chazlen Rook

Judy Schroeder

Paula Swing

Abby Williams

OKYO Sustainers

BE THE HEARTBEAT: BECOME AN OKYO SUSTAINER!

We know it can be a challenge trying to keep up with all the community groups you want to support, so we've got an easy option for you. Simply sign up once with a credit card to make a monthly donation, and never worry about it again! Select your preferred monthly amount and verify 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

OKYO

OKLAHOMA YOUTH ORCHESTRAS

Outstanding Students. Amazing Music.

Oklahoma Youth Orchestras features 11 ensembles and a summer camp that serve a diverse student body of over 400 young musicians from all over the region. We foster creativity, teamwork and leadership through a strong commitment to excellence in music.





Join the Music!

Learn more about enrollment and auditions www.okyomusic.org/join

Ensembles

www.OKYOmusic.org/join

OKYO hosts both auditioned and non-auditioned ensembles each year. For those auditioning, submissions are carefully considered and students are placed into the ensemble that best fits their ability – one that is challenging, but where a student can grow and be successful.

** Indicates audition required for placement in this ensemble.*

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

Oklahoma Youth Philharmonic (OYP) * Students in OYP study and perform both educational arranged masterworks, but also appropriate works rom the classical orchestral cannon. Their repertoire is designed to introduce students to the full-orchestra setting.

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

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

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

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

Festival Strings The Festival Strings ensembles are designed to challenge and develop young music students with new music and new skills. Satellite locations: OKC, Norman, and Edmond.

Festival Winds 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.

Oklahoma Youth Orchestras Support provided by: OKLAHOMA Arts ALLIED ARTS

Season Presenting Concert Sponsor
RICHARD AND GLENNA TANENBAUM

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PAGE

ASTA (American String Teachers Association) . . . 28
Allied Arts . . . 15
American Fidelity Foundation . . . 16
Armstrong Auditorium . . . 32
Brevard Music Festival . . . 48
Brightmusic Chamber Ensemble . . . 49
Jeffrey Buyten, MD (Oklahoma Otolaryngology Associates, LLC) . . . 29
Canterbury Voices . . . 52
Chelsea Banks Cello Studio . . . 28
Fordson Hotel . . . 39
Gardner Tanenbaum . . . 4
Inter-City Violin Studios . . . 80
The Lowe Group . . . 24
Metro Family Magazine . . . 28
Mid-America String Quartet . . . 28
Oklahoma Arts Council . . . 9
Oklahoma Children's Theatre . . . 31
Oklahoma City Community College . . . 38
Oklahoma City Community Foundation . . . 17
Oklahoma City Philharmonic . . . 25
Oklahoma City University School of Music and Theatre . . . 8
Oklahoma Music Company . . . 48
Oklahoma Summer Institute Quartz Mountain . . . 42
Oral Surgery Specialists of Oklahoma . . . 2
Super Cao Nguyen . . . 49
Unity Captive . . . 24
The Tuneful Tech . . . 79
The University of Oklahoma School of Music . . . 53
The University of Kansas School of Music . . . 28
University of Central Oklahoma College of Fine Arts & Design . . . 43
Valliance Bank . . . 42

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PAGE

Family Ads . . . 30



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EMPOWERING YOUR SOUL

We proudly continue our support of Oklahoma Youth 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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