

# GREATER BOULDER YOUTH ORCHESTRAS

## **Greater Boulder Youth Orchestras Handbook** 2011-2012 Concert Season

### Introduction and Overview

Congratulations and welcome to the Greater Boulder Youth Orchestras!

Having celebrated its inaugural year with the 2010-2011 season, this new organization is under the musical leadership of Gary Lewis, the Director of Orchestral Studies at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

The GBYO mission is to provide a variety of opportunities for young musicians to deepen their musical skills and passion and to engage the community through performances of the highest possible artistic level.

The artistic staff of GBYO will work as a collaborative team, assisting with many different aspects and ensembles within the broader organization. Gary Lewis, Artistic Director, will be the primary conductor of the Symphony Orchestra and oversee all aspects of the artistic effort. Although each conductor may work with several different ensembles, the primary conducting assignments will be as follows (in alphabetical order): Emily Bowman, conductor of the Philharmonic; Erik Johnson, conductor of the Wind Ensemble and assistant conductor of the Symphony; Paul Rowinski, conductor of the Sinfonia.

Creating a nurturing environment to cultivate the talents of our students, we look forward to working with every young musician committed to achieving the highest possible artistic level, regardless of socioeconomic background. As we are in full support of school music programs, all GBYO members will participate in the parallel music ensemble at their schools.

The purpose of this handbook is to give members of GBYO information about the organization and its policies and expectations. Your input is welcome, so please let us know any suggestions you have.

The Greater Boulder Youth Orchestras is largely a volunteer organization and our success is dependent on the work of parent volunteers. Our goal is to have all families participate in volunteering to assist the orchestras in providing an enriching experience for all our young musicians.

### Expectations for our Musicians

[www.GreaterBoulderYO.org](http://www.GreaterBoulderYO.org)

PO Box 17643 • Boulder CO 80308 • 720-891-2259 • [GreaterBoulderYO@gmail.com](mailto:GreaterBoulderYO@gmail.com)

1. All members of GBYO will treat each other with respect and dignity, and be expected to contribute to a positive and encouraging atmosphere. Musicians are expected to come to rehearsals with their parts well prepared, and approach all pieces and rehearsals with a positive attitude.
2. All musicians are expected to arrive 15 minutes prior to all rehearsals and performances. Downbeat for Symphony is at 6:15 (which means musicians should arrive at 6:00); downbeat for the Sinfonia and Philharmonic is at 4:30 (which means musicians should arrive at 4:15).
3. All musicians must bring their music folders and a pencil to every rehearsal. GBYO can provide some music stands, but not enough for all musicians. Students need to bring their own portable stands to rehearsals to ensure there will be enough.
4. Musicians are permitted two rehearsal absences per concert block; musicians must contact the Executive Director in advance if he or she knows a rehearsal will be missed. **Attendance at the dress rehearsal and warm-up rehearsals is mandatory.** Please note the dress rehearsal is the full-length Monday preceding the concert; the warm-up rehearsal is the shortened rehearsal the morning of the concert. If more than two rehearsals are missed, the musician will not be permitted to play at the next concert, unless extenuating circumstances exist and only at the discretion of the music director.
5. Musicians are required to clean up their areas after rehearsal, which means pick up and put away all chairs, stands, music, etc. When used, classrooms must be restored to their proper order.
6. Musicians' focus must be on the conductor during all rehearsals and concerts; no excessive talking or disruptive behavior. Further, musicians are NOT permitted to chew gum, eat, or drink during rehearsals. All cell phones must be turned off during rehearsals.
7. GBYO gives equal membership opportunity to all individuals, regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender expression, citizenship, disability, or geographic location. Because we are a youth orchestra, membership is open to individuals only through age 21. There is no minimum age to join, but applicants must pass an audition process which is based solely on musical ability.
8. Mountain View United Methodist Church, our rehearsal venue, has been gracious in allowing us to use their facilities. It is important that we are very respectful and responsible about use of the church. Therefore, the church sanctuary cannot be entered by any students at any time before, during, or after rehearsals. While we are permitted to use church classrooms for sectionals, students are not permitted in any classrooms at any other times. Finally, in keeping with the respect which must be shown to the church facilities, students may not run in the stairs or hallways during breaks or at any other time.
9. We are very concerned about the safety of our students while they are with us. Therefore, all

students must remain in the church building during the rehearsal break, and at all other times until the rehearsal is concluded.

10. Musicians must be promptly picked up at the end of all rehearsals and performances.

11. Concert dress for Symphony is black on black; for the Sinfonia and Philharmonic, white top and black pants or skirts. For girls, this means shirts or dresses with sleeves (no spaghetti straps or sleeveless attire); dresses or skirts must be below the knee; only black tights or hose may be worn, with black shoes. Boys in Symphony must wear a black dress shirt, boys in Sinfonia and Philharmonic must wear a white dress shirt, all boys must wear black dress pants, black socks, and black shoes.

12. Private lessons with an individual music teacher is required of all musicians throughout the concert season.

13. Each member of the Greater Boulder Youth Orchestras must participate in the parallel music ensemble at his or her school. Any exception will be made only with the agreement of the parallel ensemble director or school principal and the Greater Boulder Youth Orchestras Board of Directors. This policy does not address or apply to home schoolers.

14. If a musician commits to perform at a special GBYO event, then attendance at all rehearsals for the special event is mandatory.

15. Once a musician has won a GBYO concerto competition, that musician is ineligible to compete in future GBYO concerto competitions, even if on a different instrument or voice, for two years.

16. If parents, students, or teachers have questions about GBYO policies or other matters, please contact Executive Director Brian Jack via the contact information below.

### Tuition Fees

The fees for the Symphony are \$525.00. Fees for the Philharmonic are \$475, and Sinfonia are \$425.00. A non-refundable deposit is due when accepted into the program, or at the end of the season in May for musicians who expect to continue playing with us the following fall. Fees are due in full by the time of the first rehearsal and are non-refundable past the second rehearsal. If tuition is not paid when due, it increases by \$25.

Financial assistance, based on need, is available through GBYO Community Scholarship Fund to those who qualify. This program is designed to help students in financial need participate in GBYO. For these students, we are able to reimburse part of the cost of private lessons, provide tuition assistance and, in some cases, make an instrument available. Any students 17 years old or younger are eligible who meet the requirements for free or reduced lunch at school. Students

[www.GreaterBoulderYO.org](http://www.GreaterBoulderYO.org)

PO Box 17643 • Boulder CO 80308 • 720-891-2259 • [GreaterBoulderYO@gmail.com](mailto:GreaterBoulderYO@gmail.com)

who are in financial need but who do not meet this lunch program qualification may still qualify if they can explain clearly why they are in need of assistance.

Dozens of students have benefitted from this tremendous program on a yearly basis, and we look forward to continuing it with the Greater Boulder Youth Orchestras.