



## Mission Statement

The Tallahassee Youth Orchestras (TYO) enriches the musical and creative lives of young musicians through high-quality instruction and unique performance opportunities.

## **2023-2024**

### **Board of Directors**

Dr. Karl Barton, President

Manny Hernandez, Vice President

Adriana Bush, Treasurer

Mindy Perkins, Secretary

Caroline Silver, Executive Member at Large, Advisor to the TYO Youth Board, TYO  
Community Outreach

Sara Bourdeau

Susan Boulo

Ken Davis

Danelle Eckhart

Dr. Sally Hernandez

Thomas Hill

Srini Kishore

Stephanie Leitch

Mindy Perkins

## **TYO Ensembles and Programs:**

The TYO offers orchestral ensembles designed for students of varying levels of playing ability. Additionally, the TYO offers several chamber music groups. All students are required to provide their own instrument.

### **Intermezzo Strings**

Mr. Will Whitehead | Sunday, 1:45-3:15 | \$440 per year

Designed for intermediate-string students. The focus is on intermediate techniques, refined ensemble playing, and the exploration of different musical style periods. Students should be comfortable reading and playing music in first position in the keys of D, G, and C major. Open to all ages.

Comparable levels: ASTA grade level 1.5-2.5 or FOA DS string orchestra literature.

### **Chamber Orchestra**

Dr. Kasia Bugaj | Sunday, 2:00-4:00 | \$550 per year

Intermediate to advanced string students learn and refine upper level skills such as spiccato and vibrato. Intermediate to advanced literature is emphasized. Students should be comfortable reading and playing music in first and third positions (with the addition of fourth position for cello, and one-half through fourth position for double bass). Students should also have mastered vibrato through the basic ranges of their instrument, and the production of a variety of dynamics and tone colors.

Comparable levels: ASTA grade level 2.5-3.5 or FOA CS string orchestra literature.

### **TYO Symphony Orchestra**

Mr. Chris Miller | Sunday, 2:00-4:00 | \$660 per year

A full orchestral ensemble including strings, woodwinds, brass, and percussion that performs orchestral literature at the highest level. Students should be comfortable reading and playing music in the practical range of their instrument. Students should also be able to maintain characteristic tone through all dynamic ranges and a wide variety of tone colors.

Comparable levels: ASTA grade level 4-5.5 or FOA AF full orchestra literature.

### **Small Ensembles**

Dr. Allyson Royal | Sunday, 12:45-1:45 |  
String Quartets | Woodwind Quintet | Brass Quintet | Percussion Ensemble

Interested students at all levels are eligible to participate in small ensembles. String students indicate their interest during the registration process, and they will be placed in a group appropriate to their level. String ensembles participate in one Small Ensemble concert each semester and may participate in community events or full TYO concerts.

Woodwind, brass and percussion students may participate in small ensembles led by their sectional coach. Students indicate their interest during the registration process. These ensembles participate in one Small Ensemble concert each semester and may participate in community events or full TYO concerts.

| Community Outreach Ensemble |

Students comfortable with ASTA grade level 4 material have the opportunity to participate in the Community Outreach Ensemble. This ensemble rehearses twice during each semester, and then performs in various venues throughout the community, including civic events and elder care facilities. Students who participate satisfactorily can receive community service hours. More information on this program is provided during the season.

### **TYO Student Board**

Mr. Chris Miller

TYO members have the opportunity to apply to become members of the TYO Student Board. The Student Board provides volunteer support to TYO, plans social and fundraising events, and represents TYO's student members in interactions with the TYO Board of Directors. Application information is provided each August as the season begins.

**Auditions:**

Auditions are required for all ensembles. If you need assistance in selecting an appropriate ensemble for your child, please email [tyodirector@gmail.com](mailto:tyodirector@gmail.com). There is a \$15.00 fee for all auditions. Students will not be able to audition without paying the fee.

Current members are required to re-audition each year. Audition material will be posted on the website in mid-March. There will be two audition dates: the third Sunday in May, and an early date in April only for those who have a conflict with the May date. New members who express interest after the May audition date should contact TYO via email at [tyodirector@gmail.com](mailto:tyodirector@gmail.com) to make audition arrangements.

**Audition Results and Registration:**

Audition results will be posted on our website. Students will have until June 15, 2023 to complete the registration process and pay their deposit to hold their seat for Fall 2023.

**Tuition Policy & Payments:**

It is the hope of the Tallahassee Youth Orchestra Board of Directors that no qualifying student will be unable to participate because of financial need. Anyone for whom these options present a financial hardship should apply for a scholarship. Scholarship information and applications are available on our website.

Tuition rates for the 2023-2024 season are:

Intermezzo Strings \$440

Chamber Orchestra \$550

Symphony Orchestra \$660

**Payment Policies**

A deposit of \$50 is required by June 15, 2023 to hold a student's seat.

Families may choose to pay in full or set up payment plans.

For those who wish to pay in full by check, payment is due by August 1, 2023. Amounts not paid by this date will incur a late fee of \$25.

For those who wish to pay in full by credit card, or set up payment plans, there will be an additional \$25 fee to cover credit card processing and related fees. This fee is waived for scholarship students.

**Payment Plan Options**

Tallahassee Youth Orchestras offers two payment plans:

Until August 1, 2023, families may select payment over eight months, with payments to occur on the 1st of August, September, October, November, December, January, February, March

### **Important To Remember**

As stated in the registration agreement, registration creates a commitment to pay for the entire season. Refunds cannot be given if the student withdraws. It is the responsibility of the participants utilizing payment plans to maintain a valid credit card in the registration/payment system. Failure to pay tuition in a timely manner will result in a penalty as determined appropriate by the Executive Board. This could include late fees, removal from concert programs, and/or exclusion from rehearsals or concerts. No member will be allowed to schedule an audition for the next season until all financial obligations for the current season have been met.

These policies have been established to create the very best musical learning opportunity for your musician and we appreciate your support!

### **TYO Scholarship Program**

The TYO Scholarship Program provides a limited number of partial scholarships based upon the financial needs of the student. Most awards range between 25-50% of tuition. Applications must be filled out completely and received by the due date for consideration. Applicants can expect strict confidentiality regarding all sensitive information provided and award results.

The deadline for returning students to apply for a scholarship is June 5, 2023. Applicants who have registered and paid their \$50 deposit will receive a Financial Assistance Award Letter reflecting their award status by July 15, 2023.

Applicants must sign up for a payment plan to cover the remaining amount by August 15th, or commit to paying in full on August 1, 2023.

The Scholarship Committee, comprised of members of the Board of Directors and the Music Director, will be responsible for determining the number and amounts of awards provided. It is our hope to provide scholarships of 25-50% of tuition for those who demonstrate financial need. Every effort will be made to meet the needs of all TYO students and their families, but scholarship awards are contingent on the availability of funds. The Scholarship Committee reserves the right to ask for additional information if necessary.

## **Seating Policy:**

To put forth the best musical product possible and to ensure the best possible learning outcomes for each student, TYO directors place strong players in all areas of string sections, front and back. It is the prerogative of the ensemble director to determine specific policies for his/her ensemble. It is also the responsibility of each ensemble director to clearly articulate to the students their seating policies. As a *general* template, TYO seating procedure is as follows:

Ensemble directors will determine the split between first and second violins at first rehearsal of each concert cycle. As mentioned above, each director will make every effort to balance strengths/ experience throughout the section.

During selected sectionals of every concert cycle, students will perform a brief seating audition selected from their current concert music. To protect valuable sectional time, these auditions maybe with other students in the room. Students may opt out of seating auditions with the understanding that they will be placed in non-leadership capacities in their section. Students performing auditions will be ranked according to this plan in which the highest score is seat 1 and X signifies un-ranked player:

Stand One	I	2
Stand Two	3	X
Stand Three	4	X
Stand Four	5	etc.

Unranked students who do not audition are placed after ranked (auditioned) chairs are determined. Students auditioning are not guaranteed a ranked chair.

Any First-chair player who misses more than two rehearsals for any reason will be moved to second chair with second chair player assuming the principal role.

Any ranked chair player who misses one or both of the last two rehearsals before a concert will forfeit his or her chair, being moved to a director-determined position among the un-ranked chairs.

## **Questions or Concerns:**

Questions or concerns about seating policies should be directed *first* to the ensemble director of your child's ensemble, not the executive director or a member of the board. If there are continued concerns, they should be directed to the Music Director.

Any other questions or concerns about sectionals, small ensembles, or coaching, should be directed to the Music Director.

**Attendance policy:**

Students will be allowed one pre-excused and one emergency absence per concert cycle. Pre-excused absences may be requested using the form generated through the link on the website. The form should be submitted to the Music Director for approval at least two weeks before the proposed absence. Emergency absences are for illness or other serious emergency issues. In these cases, an email to [tyodirector@gmail.com](mailto:tyodirector@gmail.com) to advise the staff of the absence is sufficient.

Each instance a student is tardy for rehearsal will count as half an absence. A student will be counted as tardy if he/she is not in their seat and completely ready to tune at the posted time for rehearsal. If a student is counted absent more than two times per concert cycle, he/she will not be allowed to perform in that concert. In these cases, parents can appeal to the executive committee to have that student reinstated to the concert. The executive committee will make its decision with deference to the child's ensemble director's recommendation. Additional stipulations with regard to absences are described under the Seating Policy. Reinstatement to a concert after an appeal does not negate the Seating Policy stipulations.

## **Dress Code:**

Concerts serve as periodic end-goals for the weekly rehearsal of TYO ensembles and give members the opportunity to perform publicly. Uniformity in dress contributes to the professional presentation of the youth orchestras

### **Intermezzo-**

*Ladies:* White blouse, black dress pants OR full-length skirt, black hose, and black shoes. No bare arms, bare legs, or mini skirts.

*Gentlemen:* Long-sleeve white shirt, black pants, black socks, black shoes, and black bow ties. Black cummerbunds are optional.

### **Chamber Orchestra-**

*Ladies:* Long black dresses OR long black skirts and black tops giving the appearance of a long black dress; black hose and black shoes. Also acceptable are long, loose-fitting black pants. No sleeveless dresses or tops; no bare arms, bare backs, or bare legs.

*Gentlemen:* All black attire with a dress tie: Long-sleeve black shirt, black pants, black socks, black shoes

### **Symphony Orchestra-**

*Ladies:* Long black dresses OR long black skirts and black tops giving the appearance of a long black dress; black hose and black shoes. Also acceptable are long, loose-fitting black pants. No sleeveless dresses or tops; no bare arms, bare backs, or bare legs.

*Gentlemen:* Black tuxedo jackets and pants, white shirts, black bowties, black socks, and black shoes. Black cummerbunds are optional.

Concertblack.com & Concertdress.com both offer many options for ladies' concert wear.

### **Concert Procedures:**

- Call times will be announced 1-2 weeks in advance of each concert.
- Members may be asked to sit out if inappropriately attired.
- Family and friends should be seated before the start of the concert. Walking in aisles should be kept to a minimum and preferably during applause only. Walking around the concert hall during the performance is inappropriate unless due to an emergency.
- Families wishing to film the concert with a camera on a tripod are asked to seat themselves in the back rows. Small cameras/phones for filming are welcome. However, please refrain from iPads and other large type devices for filming unless you are seated in the back rows.



- No applause between movements, please. Use your concert program as a guide. The conductor will usually face the audience at the end of a multiple-movement piece, at which time it is appropriate to applaud.
- TYO performances are open to the public and may be recorded. From time to time, pictures of musicians may appear in newspapers and television for the purpose of informing the community about our orchestra, or in TYO promotional materials. The performances may be posted on our YouTube channel, shown on television, and/or aired on radio in part or in their entirety.

**2023-2024**

**TYO Music Staff**

**Music Director**

**Director of Symphony Orchestra**

Christopher Miller is the Music Director of Tallahassee Youth Orchestras, and the Director of TYO Symphony.

In addition to his work with Tallahassee Youth Orchestras, Mr. Miller is known as Director of Orchestras at Lawton Chiles High School, where he directs three orchestras in addition to teaching AP Music Theory, Advanced Guitar, and Theatre. Under his direction, orchestras from Chiles have placed first (2009) and third (2014) at National Orchestra Festival and first place in Festival Disney (2011). Mr. Miller has served for five years as Florida Orchestra Association District #3 Chair and has been a violinist in the Tallahassee Symphony for over 20 years. He holds two degrees from Florida State University: BA in American Studies and Master of Music Education. He also holds a BM in violin performance from DePaul University, Chicago, where he was a student of Chicago Symphony Co-Concertmaster Victor Aitay. Miller achieved National Board Certification in 2005, the same year he received the Wiley Housewright Award for Excellence in Music Education. In 2010 he was selected by American String Teachers Association as the Florida Outstanding School Teacher.

Mr. Miller has established as his goal the maintenance and advancement of the tradition of musical and educational excellence built by his predecessors in the Tallahassee Youth Orchestra, most notably Dr. Alexander Jiménez, upon whom Miller will continue to rely as mentor, colleague, and great friend.

**Director of Chamber Orchestra**

Dr. Katarzyna (Kasia) Bugaj is an Associate Professor of Music Education at The Florida State University, where she helps prepare future music educators to work with orchestras and string students. In addition to teaching college students during the academic year Dr. Bugaj enjoys working with young musicians at the FSU Summer Music Camps. Prior to her appointment at Florida State University, Dr. Bugaj was the director of the Attica Violin Project, in Attica, Indiana.

Dr. Bugaj was the assistant director of the Fairview and Highland Park string programs in Bloomington, IN, and taught violin and viola on the faculty of the Indiana University String Academy. She also taught violin and viola at Valparaiso University, was a member of the viola section with the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra, and also played with the Grand Rapids and Louisville Symphony Orchestras. She received her Ph.D. in Music Education from Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. She also has degrees from Western Michigan University, The Peabody Conservatory, and is a graduate of the Interlochen Arts Academy (which is a truly magical place and the reason she decided to become a musician).

### **Director of Intermezzo Strings**

Will Whitehead is a string music educator, orchestral conductor, and violist pursuing a Ph.D. in Music Education at Florida State University. He is currently the Music Director of the FSU Sinfonia, the Director of the Tallahassee Youth Orchestras' Intermezzo Strings, viola faculty with the FSU String Orchestra Camp, and District 3 Chairperson on the executive board of the Florida Orchestra Association.

As a violist, Mr. Whitehead has served as Principal Viola of the Anna Maria Island Concert Chorus and Orchestra, Principal Viola of the Bradenton Symphony Orchestra, and Acting Principal Viola of the Northwest Florida Symphony Orchestra. He has played in the sections of the Venice Symphony, Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra, and Ocala Symphony Orchestra. As a soloist, Mr. Whitehead received an honorable mention in the 2015 NWFLSO Concerto Competition and was a finalist in the 2016 NWFLSO Concerto Competition and the 2016 FSU Young Artist Competition. He has participated in masterclasses with Helen Callus, Dr. Lauren Burnes Hodges, and the Penderecki String Quartet. In 2017, Mr. Whitehead was a member of the Youth Advisory Council of the American Viola Society.

Mr. Whitehead holds a B.M. in Viola Performance and B.M.E. in Instrumental Music Education from Florida State University and an M.M. in Music Education from Kent State University. He currently studies conducting with Dr. Alexander Jiménez, viola with Dr. Pamela Ryan, and is a graduate teaching assistant for Dr. Kasia Bugaj.

## 2023-2024 TYO Calendar

### August

11-13 Symphony Retreat  
20 Start of regular rehearsals at FSU  
27 Rehearsals

### September

3 Labor Day Holiday, No rehearsals  
10 Rehearsals  
17 Rehearsals  
24 Rehearsals

### October

1 Rehearsals  
8 Fall Concert, Opperman Music Hall  
3:00 PM  
15 Rehearsals  
21 Small Ensemble Concert  
22 Rehearsals  
29 Rehearsals

### November

5 Rehearsals  
12 Rehearsals  
19 Rehearsals  
26 Thanksgiving Holiday, No  
rehearsals

### December

3 Rehearsals  
9 Tallahassee Holiday Stroll  
\*TYO Community  
Orchestra  
10 Holiday Concert, Ruby Diamond  
3:00 PM  
17-31 Winter Holidays, No rehearsals

### January

7 Rehearsals  
14 Rehearsals  
20 TYO Concerto Competition  
21 Rehearsals  
28 Rehearsals

### February

4 Rehearsals  
11 Rehearsals  
18 Rehearsals  
25 Guest Artist Concert, Ruby  
Diamond 3:00 PM

### March

2 Rehearsals  
10- 17 Spring Break, No rehearsals  
24 Rehearsals  
31 Easter Holiday, No rehearsals

### April

7 Rehearsals  
14 Rehearsals  
21 Rehearsals  
27 Small Ensemble Concert  
28 Rehearsals

### May

5 Spring Concert, Ruby Diamond 3:00 PM  
\*End-of-Year Banquet 6:00 PM

**TYO rehearsal dates are subject to change  
based on facility availability**  
For more information about TYO and up-to-date  
calendar changes, please visit  
[www.tallahasseeyourorchestras.com](http://www.tallahasseeyourorchestras.com)

A Few Friendly Suggestions:

Allow time for parking at FSU, which can be tricky.

Help your student to remember to bring a sharpened pencil to each rehearsal. Intermezzo and Chamber must remember to bring a music stand to rehearsals.

TYO communicates with our students and parents via e-mail.

**It is extremely important that these e-mails are read for the success of the students, ensembles, and the organization as a whole. Students and parents are also encouraged to review the TYO website weekly.**

**Please notify us promptly of any email changes.**

**TYO Contact Info:**

tyodirector@gmail.com