



**Press Packet  
Greater Dallas  
Youth Orchestra**

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## **THE GREATER DALLAS YOUTH ORCHESTRA MISSION AND PROGRAM**

Thirty-nine years ago the Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra (GDYO) was formed by a group of interested parents and educators. This small but dedicated group's mission was to offer orchestral experience to talented young musicians in the Dallas area.

Today, that one small orchestra has developed into a 110-piece symphony orchestra, four preparatory orchestras, a flute choir and a wind symphony, and is the only organization in the Dallas metroplex that brings together almost 450 young people from 50 communities and 118 different schools for a comprehensive program of orchestral training and performance.

### **MISSION**

To provide music education and performance opportunities for musically talented youth.

### **THE PROGRAM**

The GDYO is a nonprofit organization governed by a community board of directors. Founded in 1972 by parents, educators, and members of the Dallas musical community, the GDYO has grown from a single orchestra to a comprehensive program of orchestral training with an annual operating budget of \$466,000. Today, seven ensembles (Young Performers Orchestra, Dallas String Ensemble, Sinfonietta, The Flute Choir, Wind Symphony, Philharmonic, and the Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra) offer a continuum of musical education to young musicians. Led by its Music Director and conductor Richard Giangliulio, our flagship orchestra, which is called The Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra or The GDYO, presents a formal concert season in the world-renowned Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center. The GDYO's permanent home, administrative offices, and rehearsal halls are located in the Sammons Center for the Arts.

Through competitive auditions, students are selected for membership and placed according to demonstrated abilities. Weekly rehearsals at the Sammons Center under professional leadership begin in August and continue through early May. Members of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra and other qualified musicians coach the students on a regular basis. GDYO programs include opportunities for public concerts, Side-By-Side Concerts with the Dallas Symphony and the Dallas Wind Symphony, group coaching sessions, chamber music, concerto competitions, and a program-annotating workshop.

The GDYO's International Touring Program enriches the lives of both the students and their audiences by creating an ideal atmosphere for positive, rewarding, and memorable cultural experiences through the universal appreciation of music. The GDYO provides education of unsurpassed quality to music students as well as concerts that attract many who otherwise might not be exposed to classical music.

## THE ARTISTIC PROGRAM

### THE ORCHESTRAS

#### **THE GREATER DALLAS YOUTH ORCHESTRA (GDYO)**

The most advanced of our ensembles is called the Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra or The GDYO. The GDYO performs four concerts annually at the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center. The 2009-2010 season repertoire included Elgar's *Enigma Variations*, Shostakovich's Symphony No. 10, Rossini's *William Tell Overture*, and Bartok's Concerto for Orchestra. Since 1994 the GDYO has performed five highly successful European Tours and a China tour, and participated in the National Youth Orchestra Festival in June 2000. Andrew Litton, former Music Director and Conductor of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra has been a guest conductor for the past six years. Members of the DSO serve as coaches for GDYO sectionals.

#### **WIND SYMPHONY**

The Wind Symphony is composed of 45-50 wind, brass, and percussion players. The group performs a variety of the finest literature composed specifically for wind ensemble. The Wind Symphony toured China in June of 2008.

#### **PHILHARMONIC**

The Philharmonic Orchestra is an advanced introduction to the full-sized symphony orchestra. The presence of the woodwinds, brass, and percussion makes possible the performance of wide repertoire of symphonic music.

#### **THE FLUTE CHOIR**

The Flute Choir is the newest member of the GDYO family of ensembles. Formed in 2008 the choir is made up of 12 flutists. The Choir performs 3 concerts annually along with lobby performances at the Meyerson and other venues including SMU and area churches.

#### **SINFONIETTA**

The Sinfonietta is a chamber-size ensemble for strings only. This group plays challenging repertoire for string orchestra and is available for special events and short concert performances in addition to the regular concert schedule.

#### **DALLAS STRING ENSEMBLE (DSE)**

Students in this ensemble have developed facility in bowing techniques, reading music, proficiency in playing in third position and using vibrato. The DSE performs three concerts annually.

#### **YOUNG PERFORMERS ORCHESTRA (YPO)**

This ensemble may be a student's first experience in a string group. YPO is designed for string players with left hand accuracy in first position and basic bowing techniques, with a desire to improve music-reading and develop ensemble playing skills. The YPO performs three concerts annually.

## ARTISTIC LEADERSHIP

**Artistic Director and Conductor of the Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra:** Richard Giangiulio is now in his thirty-first season with the GDYO. He served as Principal and Co-Principal Trumpet of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra for thirty-two years. He is Music Director and Conductor of the Allen Philharmonic, and is on the faculty of the Idyllwild Arts Summer Camp. A graduate of the Curtis Institute, Juilliard, and the Paris Conservatory, Mr. Giangiulio played for ten years in the Philadelphia Youth Orchestra.

**Wind Symphony Conductor:** Nicholas Enrico Williams in his second year as conductor of the GDYO Wind Symphony, also serves as the conductor of the Concert Band and the director of athletic bands, including the North Texas Green Brigade Marching Band at the University of North Texas. Dr. Williams received his bachelors, masters and doctoral degrees from the University of North Texas in music education and conducting, as a student of Eugene Migliaro Corporon.

**Philharmonic and Sinfonietta Conductor:** James Frank, in his eleventh season as a conductor of the Philharmonic is a graduate of the Juilliard School of Music. He had a successful career as a professional horn player before deciding to conduct. He has been an Orchestra Director in Richardson and Plano Schools, and under his direction these orchestras have been consistent sweepstakes winners at U.I.L. and many other competitions. He also serves as guest clinician, panelist and as a frequent adjudicator for festivals and contests.

**The Flute Choir Conductors:** Dr. Priscilla Holt, in her third season as conductor of the flute choir currently directs the orchestra program at Centennial High School in Frisco, Texas. A flute student of Bernard Goldberg, she attended Duquesne University and spent her Sundays playing flute in the Pittsburgh Youth Symphony. Locally, she performs with Texas Winds Musical Outreach and The Grand Avenue Trio. Mary Shinn, in her third season as conductor of the flute choir holds a BA degree from SMU, a BME degree from UTD, and an MA in Flute Performance from TWU. She is currently the 2nd flute in the Northeast Texas Symphony and principal flute in the Allen Philharmonic Symphony. Mary serves as assistant pianist and organist at Walnut Hill United Methodist Church and is the Dallas Area Representative for the Texas Flute Society.

**Young Performers Orchestra and Dallas String Ensemble Conductor:** Susan Younghans joined the GDYO staff in June 2005. She directed The Colony's Lakeview Middle School Orchestra program for 7 years. She performs with the Texas Chamber Orchestra and the Wichita Falls Symphony and has degrees from State University of New York and University of North Texas.

## 2010-2011 Concert Information

### Concert Tickets: Prices, Venues, Times and Dates

ALL concert events are ticketed. Large group or educational discounts are available on a case-by-case basis for all ticketed events. Please call the office for details.

We accept cash, check, MasterCard and Visa Payments  
Exact change is preferred

Tickets available online at [www.gdyo.org](http://www.gdyo.org), at the GDYO office or at the door the day of the concert

### **GDYO 2010-2011 Meyerson Series**

Single tickets for GDYO concerts range from \$10-\$40 each

Sunday, Oct 24, 2010	7:30 PM	Meyerson Symphony Center
Wednesday, Dec 8, 2010	7:30 PM	Meyerson Symphony Center
Sunday, Mar 6, 2011	7:30 PM	Meyerson Symphony Center
Sunday, May 22, 2011	7:30 PM	Meyerson Symphony Center

### **Philharmonic**

Sunday, November 7, 2010 7:30 pm - Meyerson Symphony Center  
Tickets \$10 or \$20 (loge seat) On Sale: October 17

Sunday, February 20, 2011 2:30 pm – Eisemann Center in Richardson  
Tickets \$10 On Sale: January 30

Sunday, May 8, 8:00 pm – Eisemann Center in Richardson  
Tickets \$10 On Sale: April 17

### **Wind Symphony**

Sunday, November 7, 2010 7:30 pm - Meyerson Symphony Center  
Tickets \$10 or \$20 (loge seat) On Sale: October 17

Tuesday, January 25, 2011 Side-by-Side with the Dallas Wind Symphony  
8:00 pm - Meyerson Symphony Center

\*Tickets for this performance are NOT available from GDYO. Tickets will be purchased through the Dallas Wind Symphony.

Sunday, February 20, 2011 2:30 pm – Eisemann Center in Richardson  
Tickets \$10 On Sale: January 30

Thursday, March 24, 2011 Side by Side with UNT Wind Band  
7:30 pm Murchison Performing Arts Center, Denton

Tickets to this performance will be for sale through the Murchison Performing Arts Center

Sunday, May 1 2010 2:30 pm - SMU Caruth Auditorium  
Tickets \$10 On Sale: April 10

**Flute Choir**

Sunday, November 7, 2010 7:30 pm - Meyerson Symphony Center  
Tickets \$10 or \$20 (loge seat) On Sale: October 17

Sunday, January 30 2:30 pm – Walnut Hill United Methodist Church, Dallas  
Concert is Free

Sunday, May 1 2010 2:30 pm - SMU Caruth Auditorium  
Tickets \$10 On Sale: April 10

**YPO, DSE and Sinfonietta**

Sunday, November 21, 2010 3:30 pm – Prince of Peace Lutheran Fine Arts Center  
Tickets \$5 Tickets on Sale: October 31

Sunday, February 27 2:30 pm - SMU Caruth Auditorium  
Tickets \$5 Tickets on Sale: February 6

Sunday, May 8, 8:00 pm – Eisemann Center in Richardson  
Tickets \$10 On Sale: April 17

## **Classical music review: Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra dispatches tricky rhythms with impressive authority**

12:05 AM CDT on Monday, May 17, 2010

By SCOTT CANTRELL / The Dallas Morning News  
scantrell@dallasnews.com

Reports of the demise of classical music are greatly exaggerated. So you'd have concluded Sunday night, listening to extraordinary performances by the high school students – high school students –making up the Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra.

By turns mysterious and mischievous, tender and exhilarating, Béla Bartók's Concerto for Orchestra is no walk in the park for major professional orchestras. But here was the GDYO, at the Meyerson Symphony Center, dispatching tricky rhythms and complex dovetailings with authority and élan.

Oh, sure, you'd hear some of the rhythms more tautly synchronized by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. But the ears marveled again and again at nimble violins, at wind players who lovingly shaped their cameos, at a powerhouse pack of trombonists, at whole rows of brass players firm-toned even at pianissimo.

Credit goes to teachers, coaches and parents as well as the students themselves. But the man who ultimately pulls it together is Richard Giangiulio, the GDYO's music director for an amazing 30 years.

Sunday's performances were fresh and probing and caringly assembled. Even in the Bartók, Giangiulio made the music dance and sing, and gave it breath.

Rossini's William Tell Overture opened with eloquent phrasings from divided cellos and especially co-principal Justin Zhao. The orchestra then whipped up a great storm and galloped off to glory.

In a town where south-of-the-border classical music is shamefully neglected, it was a treat to hear the Sinfonía india by Mexican composer Carlos Chávez. A contemporary and friend of Aaron Copland, Chávez shared some of the American's idioms in this multipartite sendup of native folk tunes. Here, too, Giangiulio and his charges managed shifting rhythms and dreamy tunes with impressive assurance.

It's a tribute to the GDYO that the program book's list of graduating seniors had the vast majority going on to music majors at major universities and conservatories. Those planning on majors like engineering and neuroscience will be the avid concertgoers – and, we hope, patrons – for concerts in decades to come.

# Classical Music Review: Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra's crackerjack performance

12:08 PM CDT on Monday, May 18, 2009

By SCOTT CANTRELL / The Dallas Morning News  
scantrell@dallasnews.com

Those who pontificate on the imminent demise of classical music might change their tune if they'd been at the Meyerson Symphony Center on Sunday night.

They would have heard a crackerjack performance of Paul Hindemith's *Symphonic Metamorphosis of Themes by Carl Maria von Weber* by – get this – 110 high school kids. This 1943 showpiece, demanding subtlety as well as razzle-dazzle, met its match in the Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra and its authoritative music director, Richardangiulio.

Passing slips in coordination could be blamed on unfamiliarity with the Meyerson acoustics, great for the audience but tricky for players onstage. And a few of the highest violin licks reminded us this wasn't the Chicago Symphony.

But those violins could blaze or glow or flicker. Winds dispatched perky fugues with supple shape. Cellos and basses danced delicately and precisely. And Angiulio made sure the music's wit came through.

The fortissimos were maybe a little too much so in Beethoven's *Egmont Overture*, those opening chords unimaginably huge. But Angiulio didn't slight the other end of the dynamic spectrum. In music about 15th-century political strife, there was no mistaking the life-and-death import.

The program's middle two pieces were less satisfying.

If Angiulio wanted to do an oboe concert and use the full strings, why program Vivaldi? Former DSO principal oboist Eric Barr played competently in a D minor Concerto, but in music penned for maybe a dozen musicians the Mahlerian mass of strings sounded preposterous.

And the late American composer Alan Hovhaness' *Mount St. Helens Symphony* takes the prize for the tawdriest piece of orchestral music in memory. Composed in response to the 1980 eruption of the eponymous volcano in Washington state, it gives us the calm before the storm as well as the cataclysm, percussion booming and crashing and brasses braying, then a chorale rising to a triumphant coda.

But each of the three movements seems to have only a single theme, which isn't so much developed as passed around. Even three middle-movement mini-fugues and another in the finale merely belabor the obvious.

To call this movie music would be to insult far more sophisticated work by John Williams and company. Even high school kids deserve better.

# Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra bring razzle-dazzle to Meyerson

12:00 AM CDT on Monday, May 19, 2008

By SCOTT CANTRELL / The Dallas Morning News

These are high school students, I kept thinking Sunday evening. They should not be able to play this well. But once again, at the Meyerson Symphony Center, the Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra could have challenged some fully professional ensembles.

Oh, the winds weren't always flawlessly tuned, and quiet chords in Wagner's Flying Dutchman Overture weren't always quite together.

But the violins were amazing: fine-tuned and flawlessly coordinated, and downright virtuosic when called for. (The violin licks in all three pieces on the program are no walks in the park.)

The horns whooped thrillingly in the Wagner and Respighi's razzle-dazzle Roman Festivals. Principal horn Emily Barth supplied suave solos, as did co-concertmaster Suyun Lee and principal clarinetist Jimmye Ahn.

GDYO music director Richard Giangliulio is one of the area's unsung heroes.

Plenty of conductors with major careers could learn from his clear, communicative beat, his feeling for musical form and proportion – his sheer musicality.

He and his charges deserved gold medals for keeping up as well as they did with soloist Gustavo Romero in the Prokofiev Third Piano Concerto. Thanks to the quadrennial Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, that's a piece that's been heard a lot around here. But I can't recall a pianist making it sound quite so incoherent.

Mr. Romero, who's on the faculty of the University of North Texas, can play very fast and very loudly. But he favors a hard tone that soon wears on the ear, and in the Prokofiev he kept rushing on the edge of losing control. Music that should sparkle sounded frantic. And there were too many overdone lunges at accents.

Concerto performances around here are all but guaranteed standing ovations. Mr. Giangliulio and the orchestra deserved this one; Mr. Romero did not.

By SCOTT CANTRELL / The Dallas Morning News (Monday, May 22, 2006)

It was hard to believe one's ears Sunday evening at the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center. Hearing the skill and sophistication of the orchestral performances, one could scarcely imagine that they were coming from high school students.

But that's the Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra for you. Led by music director Richard Giangiulio, this ensemble again proved itself one of Dallas' treasures.

For all the hand-wringing in recent decades about the decline of music education, at least some schools around here are cultivating some immensely promising players. Add Mr. Giangiulio's clear beat and probing musicianship, and sectional coaching by outstanding professional instrumentalists, and you'll conclude there's real hope for the future of classical music.

The season-closing concert opened with an exhilarating Mozart Marriage of Figaro Overture. With a Shostakovich-sized complement of strings – orchestras in Mozart's day would have had far fewer – crucial wind parts got lost in the wash. But the violins' nimble clarity was most impressive.

Next came the Brahms Violin Concerto, with a GDYO – and Plano Senior High School – alum as soloist. Jun Iwasaki, who's gone on to the Cleveland Institute of Music, played with authority and ardor, and poetry, too. He rushed his first entrance a little, and elsewhere the odd note wasn't dead centered, but he tossed off virtuoso licks with panache and set the lyric music soaring.

This is music calling for great subtlety and suppleness from the orchestra, qualities that don't grow on trees. Ensemble came briefly unglued in the first movement, and quiet playing was a challenge for the brasses. But Mr. Giangiulio had a fine musical feeling for the piece, and in the second-movement oboe solos William Wollett produced the most warmly beautiful sounds I've heard from that instrument in goodness knows when.

Mr. Giangiulio led a gripping account of the Shostakovich Fifth Symphony, finely calculating both large and small dramatic arcs. One wished for surer, better-focused horns, but the violins shaped first- and third-movement phrases exquisitely, and there were outstanding flute, clarinet and violin cameos.

Before the concert's second half, Mr. Giangiulio presented several prizes to outstanding students, and Chuck Moore was honored for 10 years as GDYO's executive director.