



GDYO

# Press Packet

## Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra

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# GDYO Description

## **100 word description**

Founded in 1972, the Greater Dallas Youth Orchestras (GDYO) is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing music education and performance opportunities for musically talented youth. It has grown from a single orchestra of 35 members to a program of over 450 talented musicians, ages 8 to 18, who audition to participate in one of eight ensembles while socializing with a diverse group of highly talented peers from more than 50 communities. The GDYO program cultivates teamwork, self-discipline, and perseverance. Ensemble offerings include the Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra, Philharmonic, Sinfonietta, Dallas String Ensemble, Young Performers Orchestra, Wind Symphony, Flute Choir and Jazz Institute.

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Founded in 1972, the Greater Dallas Youth Orchestras (GDYO) is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing music education and performance opportunities for musically talented youth. The GDYO program cultivates learning, creative social and motivational skills. It has grown from a single orchestra of 35 members to a program of over 450 talented musicians, ages 8 to 18, performing in eight ensembles and socializing with a diverse group of highly talented peers from more than 50 communities. Ensemble offerings include the Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra, Philharmonic, Sinfonietta, Dallas String Ensemble, Young Performers Orchestra, Wind Symphony, Flute Choir, and Jazz Institute. GDYO offers many enrichment opportunities in addition to the high quality ensemble training, including a partnership with the DSO Young Strings program, and the Share the Magic program which offers hundreds of complimentary tickets to concerts at the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center each season. GDYO is committed to providing musical experiences to young people throughout the area. While participation in GDYO is tuition-based, the organization has a long-standing commitment to making its programs available to all qualified musicians; scholarship assistance is available, and no student need be denied an opportunity to participate because of financial need.

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# MISSION AND PROGRAM

Founded in 1972, the Greater Dallas Youth Orchestras is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to providing music education and performance opportunities for musically talented youth. The Greater Dallas Youth Orchestras (GDYO) program cultivates learning, creative social and motivational skills. In 43 years, it has grown from a single orchestra of 35 members to a program of over 480 talented musicians, ages 8 to 18, performing in 5 orchestras, a wind symphony, a flute choir, and 6 jazz combos, and socializing with a diverse group of highly talented peers from more than 50 communities.

## MISSION

To provide music education and performance opportunities for youth with demonstrated musical ability.

## PROGRAM OFFERINGS

- ◆ Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra: The GDYO is the most advanced orchestral ensemble in the program. This full symphony orchestra performs four concerts of major symphonic repertoire at the Meyerson Symphony Center. The GDYO has close ties to the Dallas Symphony Orchestra as members of the DSO serve as coaches for sectionals. The 110 members are high school seniors or younger.
- ◆ Philharmonic: Comprised of approximately 100 members, high school seniors or younger, the Philharmonic is a full symphony orchestra. The combination of strings, woodwinds, brass and percussion makes possible the performance of a wide variety of symphonic music. For some, the Philharmonic is an introduction to advanced orchestral literature.
- ◆ Wind Symphony: The Wind Symphony is an advanced symphonic ensemble of 55 to 60 wind, brass and percussion players who are high school seniors or younger. Each season the GDYO Wind Symphony performs a side-by-side concert with the Dallas Wind Symphony.
- ◆ Flute Choir: This group utilizes all instruments in the flute family, including piccolo, C-flute, alto flute, and bass flute. The Flute Choir performs a variety of repertoire for flute choir. Members are high school seniors or younger.
- ◆ Sinfonietta: Because of the unique size of this ensemble (approximately 35 total violin, viola, cello and bass players), Sinfonietta members experience a heightened sense of the importance of each part and each individual musician. Sinfonietta members are in the 11th grade or younger. This ensemble focuses on cross-listening between sections, blend and balance, expressing various styles of music, and pursuing detailed, mature music making. Sinfonietta members demonstrate advanced shifting and bowing technique and are introduced to challenging string literature.
- ◆ Dallas String Ensemble: An intermediate level string orchestra, the Dallas String Ensemble consists of approximately 60 string players (violin, viola, cello and bass), all ninth graders or younger. DSE musicians encounter complex rhythms and begin to explore the interaction between various harmonies and melodies, while performing beautiful music.
- ◆ Young Performers Orchestra: Members of the YPO are primarily 7th graders or younger. This ensemble currently consists of 50 string players (violin, viola, cello and bass) and is the first ensemble experience for many of its members. In the YPO, musicians learn the fundamentals of playing in an ensemble and receive instruction on proper instrument position and posture. Young musicians are nurtured and challenged while they are introduced to vibrato, a variety of bowing techniques and positions.
- ◆ Jazz Institute: Launched in 2014, the program will include instruction in instrumental techniques, improvisation, music theory, music history, composition, musician etiquette and how to function in the music business. The focus of the program is excellence in jazz music education and performance. The Jazz Institute will offer technique classes, combo rehearsals, instruction by professional jazz musicians and educators, jam sessions in area jazz venues, interaction with top jazz professionals in master classes, scheduled performance opportunities.

***Greater Dallas Youth Orchestras offers many enrichment opportunities in addition to the high quality ensemble training, including:***

- ◆ Program Note writing, which allows selected students in the top orchestra to receive not only music instruction but also writing and research training from the program annotator of the Dallas Symphony as they compose and re-write program notes for the GDYO concert programs.
- ◆ Touring for the top ensemble, the GDYO. In the summer of 2015, the ensemble will travel to China for approximately two weeks.
- ◆ Concerto Competitions for four of the ensembles are a fantastic opportunity for students to gain recognition and perform alongside their peers.
- ◆ Chamber Ensemble Competition.

For many of our students, Greater Dallas Youth Orchestras is their only opportunity for education in orchestral performance, because their schools offer no orchestra program or because they are home-schooled. Many of our young musicians tell us they “live for Sunday afternoons at the Greater Dallas Youth Orchestras!” Concerts bring families to the Meyerson, Dallas City Performance Hall, etc. Parents consistently express their gratitude for the quality venues.

Greater Dallas Youth Orchestras is committed to providing musical experiences to young people throughout the area. The “Share the Magic Sponsor” program provides complimentary tickets to those who would not ordinarily have the opportunity to attend a symphony concert at the Meyerson Symphony Center in Dallas.

A major outreach program is the GDYO’s partnership with the Dallas Symphony in their young strings program. The Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra provides tuition-free participation in our orchestras to all DSO “Young Strings” players who are ready for an orchestral experience. These scholarships are in addition to the \$20,000 in scholarship assistance granted each season.

While participation in Greater Dallas Youth Orchestras is tuition-based, the organization has a long-standing commitment to making its programs available to all qualified musicians; scholarship assistance is available, and no student need be denied an opportunity to participate because of financial need. Greater Dallas Youth Orchestras students have been exposed to other cultures and have broadened their understanding of the world through their travel and performances overseas. The most recent international tour took the GDYO to Germany and the Czech Republic in the summer of 2012.

GDYO’s talented music faculty members blend creativity and pedagogical expertise with their great breadth of musical knowledge. And the dedicated and engaged board of directors lends guidance and leadership to the organization.

Since 1972, Greater Dallas Youth Orchestras has provided wholesome, challenging opportunities for this special group of young musicians who, as always, enrich the cultural life of our city and carry the cultural riches of Dallas wherever they travel.

# ARTISTIC LEADERSHIP

**Artistic Director and Conductor of the Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra:** Richard Giangiulio is now in his thirty-fourth 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 sixth 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 fourteenth 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.

**Flute Choir Conductor:** Dr. Priscilla Holt, in her seventh 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.

**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.

**Jazz Institute Instructors:** Instructors for the Jazz Institute come from strong music education and performance backgrounds, including graduating from the prestigious University of North Texas Jazz Studies program, participating in the One O'Clock Lab Band, performing with professional jazz musicians from across the country, writing their own music, teaching, giving masterclasses, and more.

## 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 Jimmie Ahn.

GDYO music director Richard Giangiulio 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. Giangiulio and the orchestra deserved this one; Mr. Romero did not.

# Mature show of talent

## CLASSICAL REVIEW: Youth Orchestra shows its best instincts

By **SCOTT CANTRELL**  
Classical Music Critic  
scantrell@dallasnews.com

Especially for those of us who grew up in towns without youth orchestras, the sheer quality of the Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra is simply amazing. For the vast majority of the group's season-closing concert Sunday evening at the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center, you could have closed your eyes and imagined you were listening to a professional adult orchestra rather than a bunch of high school students.

The performance of Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony was particularly impressive. This is a piece that often brings out conductors' worst instincts. They pull the music this way and that, lolling shamelessly over the big tunes, whipping the more exciting passages into vulgar frenzies.

But grandstanding isn't the way of GDYO music director Richard Giangulio, a thoughtful and innately musical conductor with a fine grasp of proportion.

*In general, though, trumpets and horns were quite fine, and horn, oboe and clarinet solos were beautifully molded.*

He was probably wise to pull back a couple of notches from Tchaikovsky's brisk tempo for the main part of the first movement, but he managed the numerous yieldings and nudgings of pace with utter naturalness. The slow movement, with its famous horn solo, and the slow introductions to the outer movements were properly mobile: sensitive, but unsentimental.

The winds weren't flawlessly tuned in the opening of the Allegro con anima, and there was a split brass note here and there.

In general, though, trumpets and horns were quite fine, and horn, oboe and clarinet solos were beautifully molded. Violins tautly negotiated tricky writing, and the cellos made the most of their echo of the second-movement horn solo.

The orchestra acquitted itself well, too, in Francis Poulenc's saucy Concerto for two pianos. Pianists Lucille Chung and Alessio Bax tossed off the wild chatters and glittery cascades of notes with urbane brilliance.

The more reflective passages of Copland's *El salón Mexico* wanted more urgency and sense of direction, but the toe-tapping music snapped and crackled.

Before the concert's second half, Mr. Giangulio announced scholarships for returning juniors and awards for several of the 46 seniors graduating from high school and thus leaving the orchestra.

By the way, the GDYO leaves June 11 on a two-week tour of China. Dallas should be proud to have such ambassadors.

Quotes from Scott Cantrell, Dallas Morning News

*“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”.*

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*“...you could have closed your eyes and imagined you were listening to a professional adult orchestra rather than a bunch of high school students.”*

*“Dallas should be proud to have such ambassadors.”*

*“There has been plenty of gloom and doom in the classical music world of late: orchestras facing scary deficits, the record industry dead in the water, radio stations going to the dogs. But one development gives great hope for the future: the flowering of amazingly good youth orchestras. ...the Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra certainly proved that all is not ill in the world.”*

*“More than one major-city orchestra would sell its soul to have GDYO's violin section, Again and again, in a long concert, the violins dazzled with skill and tonal refinement.”*

*“...impressively disciplined performance...dazzled with skill and tonal refinement... lovingly formed wind solos...”*

*“...lucky are these kids to be initiated into symphonic music in so professional an environment. Even the ones who don't go on to performing careers will be passionate and knowledgeable and demanding audiences of tomorrow.”*

*“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 my Music Director Richardangiulio, this ensemble again proved itself one of Dallas' treasures.”*