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# 2011 Annual Report



PROVIDING MUSIC EDUCATION AND  
PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES FOR  
MUSICALLY TALENTED YOUTH

## Happy 40th Anniversary!

*The 2011-2012 season was GDYO's 40th Anniversary season! Here's to 40+ more!!*

This past season Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra celebrated its 40th Anniversary in style! Continuing a long tradition of international touring, GDYO performed six concerts throughout Germany and the Czech Republic (page 2). For the first time in our history, we commissioned a piece. GDYO premiered the work, by composer Xi Wang, at the Season Finale and 40th Anniversary Ruby Gala on May 20, 2012 (page 3). This performance also featured long-time friend of GDYO and world-renowned pianist, Leeds Piano Competition Gold Medal Winner, Alessio Bax. In March, GDYO was proud to collaborate with the Fort Worth Youth Symphony in a

performance which featured both ensembles' talented young musicians (page 3). The Holiday Magic performance with the Children's Chorus of Greater Dallas and the Season Opener featuring the GDYO Concerto Competition Winner were very well-received.

GDYO began the season with a spectacular festival concert at the

Eisemann Center in Richardson, where we featured all seven ensembles separately as well as together (yes, all 440 of them!), in another 40th Anniversary work composed by Mary Alice Rich.

Each season, GDYO is amazed by the talented young people who audition for and are accepted into the various ensembles. 765

musicians auditioned for GDYO ensembles this past spring, and a record 442 were placed in the seven ensembles. We look forward to this coming season with great anticipation! Please join us as often as possible to enjoy the great talent and inspiration that makes up GDYO!



## Ways to Connect

GDYO is pleased to announce that we have recently launched a **new** website that includes more information and resources. Please feel free to tell us what you think of the website, what else we can add, and visit us frequently!

You can also connect with GDYO and other supporters on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn!

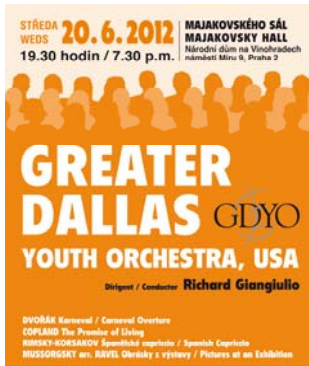


# Successful 2012 European Tour

This July, 79 advanced musicians, accompanied by 14 chaperones, 4 staff, and one tourist, served as ambassadors for Dallas and the Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra during a tour of Germany and the Czech Republic. The orchestra performed six concerts in wonderful venues to very appreciative crowds. Concerts took place in Dresden, Munich, Prague, Bad Mergentheim, Litomysl, and Weimar. Experiences like this are life-changing, and GDYO is so honored to have been a part of this event with you all. Below are just a few of the many wonderful comments from parents and students:

*Thank you GDYO for organizing such a wonderful trip. This will become one of the most memorable experiences these kids will have. I cannot wait to meet them at the airport tomorrow to see the smiling faces.* — Benjamin Jia

*This place is amazing! I love how everywhere we've been has had a different "flavor" and feeling, but how all have been incredible. I'm going to miss it - already can't wait to come back.* — Trevor M.



*The opportunity to perform in Europe has been absolutely incredible. It reminds me that music is indeed the universal language.* — Ina M.

*I can't believe our journey is so close to an end. It's been incredible; the people we've met, the places we've been and the friends we've made. Whether we're tired from rehearsing or from touring, every moment has been unforgettable.* — Rooha K.



## About Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra

The Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra 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 program cultivates learning, creative, social and motivational skills. 440 talented musicians perform in seven ensembles and socialize with a diverse group of highly talented peers from more than 50 communities.

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## Your Support is Key

The Greater Dallas Youth Orchestras is recognized locally, nationally and internationally as an organization that offers high quality musical instruction and unique performance opportunities for area youth. As a non-profit organization, less than 37% of our revenue is generated through tuition fees.

We rely on contributions made by individuals, foundations, corporations and in-kind services to continue and grow our programs. Help us to give the gift of music to area youth! You can make a contribution online today at [www.gdyo.org](http://www.gdyo.org), mail a check, or call us to discuss a pledge or other plan.

## YOU MAY NOT KNOW THAT...

- GDYO programs are the only venue for orchestral training for many private, home schools, and school districts without an orchestra program.
- More than 750 young people auditioned for placement in the orchestras this year.
- Any student that successfully auditions for programs is accepted regardless of ability to pay.
- 400 culturally diverse students come from 50 communities and 118 different schools.
- Between 60 to 90 hours of instruction is provided for students each year.
- Conductors and coaches come from the Dallas Symphony, Dallas Opera, Dallas Wind Symphony and university faculties.
- 100% of GDYO students go on to higher education each year.

## YOUR CONTRIBUTION WILL...

- Grant over \$20,000 annually in student scholarship assistance.
- Provide over 1,000 complimentary tickets to low-income students, senior citizens, families and teachers.
- Grant scholarships to minority students, in an attempt to increase their representation in the classical music world.
- Continue to fulfill our mission of providing music education and performance opportunities for musically talented youth.



# Thank you to our donors!

The GDYO gratefully acknowledges the following individuals, businesses, foundations, and funding agencies that have supported the GDYO through a contribution of \$100 or more between September 1, 2011 and March 7, 2013.

Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra is recognized locally, nationally and internationally as an organization that offers high quality musical instruction and unique performance opportunities for area youth. As a non-profit organization, we rely on contributions made by individuals, foundations, corporations and in-kind services to continue and grow our programs. Help us to give the gift of music to area youth!

These lists are updated and reprinted throughout the season. We apologize for any errors or omissions; please contact us, so that we may make corrections in future listings. For more information on contributing to the Annual Fund or Scholarship Endowment, call the GDYO office, 214-528-7747 or email [amber@gdyo.org](mailto:amber@gdyo.org).

## Corporate and Foundation Donors

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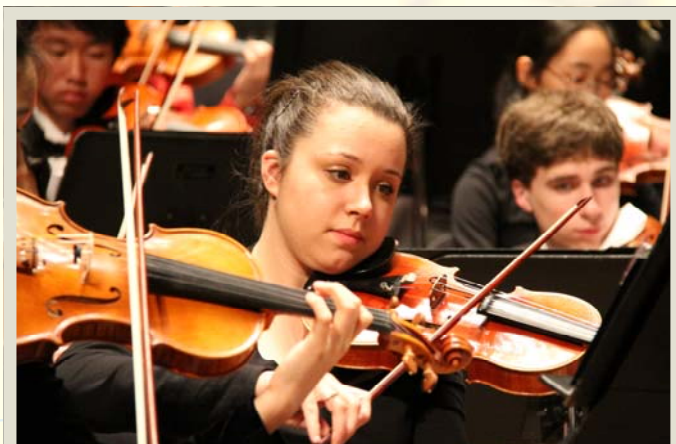
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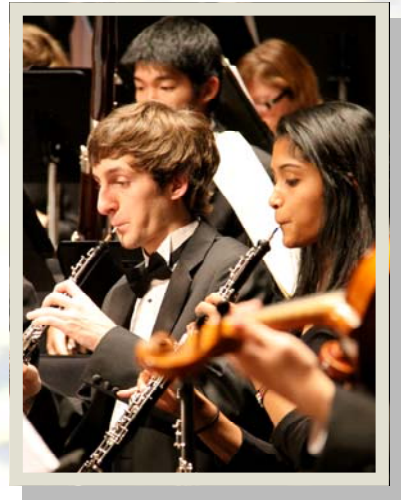


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 Milton & Ruth Thomas  
 Terry Thompkins  
 Theodore Thompson  
 Lynn Dealey Townsend  
 Steven Tsai

“I would like to thank GDYO for providing young musicians a platform to cultivate their music interests, sharpen their skills, showcase their music talents, develop musicianship and friendship that can last a lifetime.”

Linda Newman  
 Raimund Ober  
 Ann & Randy Olena  
 Amber & Barry Oosterwaal  
 John Penson  
 Rebeca Peterman  
 Cinde Pettey  
 Ann Piper  
 Karen Raskopf  
 Joe Repice  
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 Rebecca Wallace  
 Jane Wang  
 Peggy Wang  
 Arthur White  
 Addison Wilson III  
 Hung Wu  
 Jung Yee Yu

# From Fort Worth to Dallas

*On March 4, 2012, GDYO and the Fort Worth Youth Symphony performed a side by side concert. Both orchestras were featured, plus two combined orchestras were assembled. The concert and the rehearsals beforehand were a great success. Students, parents, and the staff of both organizations were pleased with the outcome and the opportunity to mix and mingle with like-minded music lovers!*

*Below is a special welcome that was written by Kevin B. Wiggins for the March concert. Mr. Wiggins is a former Fort Worth Youth Orchestra member and a current Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra Board Vice President.*



My journey from the Fort Worth Youth Orchestra to the Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra began in 1972. I was sixteen and my family had just moved to Fort Worth from Oklahoma. I was encouraged to audition for the FWYO. I did and was accepted.

The FWYO was an ensemble of exceptional quality. John Giordano, or "Mr. G" as we referred to him, was the conductor. He was an outstanding musical leader whose exuberance and musicality served as an inspiration to many. My experience in the FWYO gave me not only exposure to classical music played at a very high level, but also the opportunity to tour internationally and meet interesting creative people. Music was a significant part of my application and college experience.



The summer after my junior year at Harvard I attended a back to school reception held in Dallas at the home of Jo Kurth Jagoda, a founder of the GDYO who would later play a pivotal role in my GDYO experience.

After finishing law school and clerking for a judge in Boston, our young family moved to Dallas. My wife and I both wanted our children to have significant exposure to classical music. Our daughter began violin lessons the month before her third birthday. Because music became such a central focus in her life, it was only natural that her three brothers would follow.

She was accepted into the YPO in 1986 and my GDYO experience began. I became one of the founders of the Parent's Guild and its first president. Shortly thereafter Mrs. Jagoda asked me to join the GDYO Board where I have served as, among other things, Board Chairman and President. Perhaps my most significant

experience with the GDYO, however, has involved its touring program. The 1994 tour with Rick Giangulio, who is coincidentally also referred to as "Mr. G.", was the first of six tours I have helped coordinate for the GDYO, all of which have been successful and provided its participants with invaluable experiences and opportunities.

I believe strongly in youth orchestra programs because they provide children with an experience that gives them a lifetime appreciation for music, either as musicians or audiences. In addition, their musical training helps them develop skills which almost insure their access to higher education.

On a personal note, my four children have all participated in and had the opportunity to tour with the GDYO program. They all remark that the GDYO was a significant and valuable part of their childhoods. If they only knew, their experience really started in Fort Worth.

## GDYO Commission

*To commemorate our 40th anniversary, GDYO commissioned a piece for the first time in the organization's history. Portions of this article were written by Megan Wright, GDYO violinist, 2012.*

For the first time in the history of the Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra, the organization has commissioned a new work by celebrated composer Xi Wang (pronounced Shee Wong). She was inspired to write *Fall* at the Barnard Cottage after judging the GDYO Concerto Competition in 2011. Xi Wang was "amazed" by the performances she listened to and felt a calling to specifically craft a work for the GDYO musicians.

Not long after Xi Wang developed her initial idea for the piece, she was awarded a grant to spend the month of September 2011 at the MacDowell Colony in New Hampshire, the oldest artists' colony in the United States. At MacDowell, a select group of artists lives and works in the solitude of the colony's serenely forested and isolated environment. It was during Xi Wang's stay at the MacDowell Colony where *Fall* at the Barnard Cottage began to take flight.

The cottage's simple furnishings and isolation allowed Xi Wang to become attuned to the natural environment around her and focus on the poetic beauty of the harmony in life and nature. This scene directly translates into her composition, expertly portrayed with musical "paint."

\*\*\*

Composer Xi Wang is one of the most talented and active composers of her generation. Her music has been performed by the Minnesota Orchestra under Osmo Vänskä, the American Composers Orchestra under Jos Serebrier, the Atlanta Symphony under Mei-Ann Chen, the Shanghai

Philharmonic under Yongyan Hu, the Spokane Symphony under Morihiko Nakahara, among others. Currently, she is an Assistant Professor at the Meadow School of Arts of Southern Methodist University.

GDYO was honored to premier *Fall* at the Barnard Cottage and to have it on the list of repertoire during their 2012 European tour!

*Xi Wang describes Barnard Cottage as:*

*... a lovely green cottage surrounded by woods. When winds sweep through the trees, the sound of leaves weaves a beautiful melody and the evening birds sing their closing songs. The crickets and cicadas sing happily. The air is cool and serene. Deer, turkeys, raccoons and squirrels are often seen in the woods. The muted, gilded sunlight filters into my studio through the lacy layers of trees. The falling bronze leaves dance in the air. Everything appears in harmony.*





## NOW! 2012-2013 Season

This season, GDYO ensembles will perform in the new City Performance Hall! (pictured to the left)

The season opener kicks off the year on October 28, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. at the Meyerson. The GDYO will perform Jennifer Higdon's blue cathedral, Prokofiev's Violin Concerto No. 2 in g-minor, Op. 63 with special guest soloist Nathan Olson, Dallas Symphony Orchestra Co-Concertmaster, and Sibelius' Symphony No. 2 in D-major, Op. 43.

The annual "Holiday Magic" on December 12, 2012, 7:30 pm features over 200 youth on the stage of the Meyerson. Along with the Youth Chorus of Greater Dallas, the GDYO will perform works for Chorus along with

Prokofiev's Troyka from Lieutenant Kijé and Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 1, Op. 13 "Winter Dreams" (selections from) and more!

On March 3 at 7:30pm, the youth orchestra will present its Symphonic Spectacular, featuring Enescu's Romanian Rhapsody No. 1 in A-major, Copland's Suite from Billy the Kid, and Brahms' Symphony No. 4 in e-minor, Op. 98.

The grand finale of the 41<sup>st</sup> season is Sunday, May 19 at 7:30pm. Featured on this program will be Shostakovich's Festive Overture, Op. 96, a yet to be determined concerto performed by the 2012-13 GDYO Concerto Competition Winner, Wagner's Arrival of the Guests at Wartburg from "Tannhaeuser", and Mahler's Symphony No. 4, featuring Elizabeth Racheva, soprano.

## SEASON TICKETS

Get yours  
today!



Subscriptions tickets are \$32-\$130. Single tickets are \$10-\$40. You can purchase single subscription tickets by calling (214)528-7747. You can purchase single tickets either at [www.gdvo.org](http://www.gdvo.org) or call 214.528.7747 or the night of the performance at the Meyerson Box Office. The Meyerson is located at 2301 Flora Street in Dallas. For more information go to [www.gdvo.org](http://www.gdvo.org) or email [info@gdvo.org](mailto:info@gdvo.org).



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