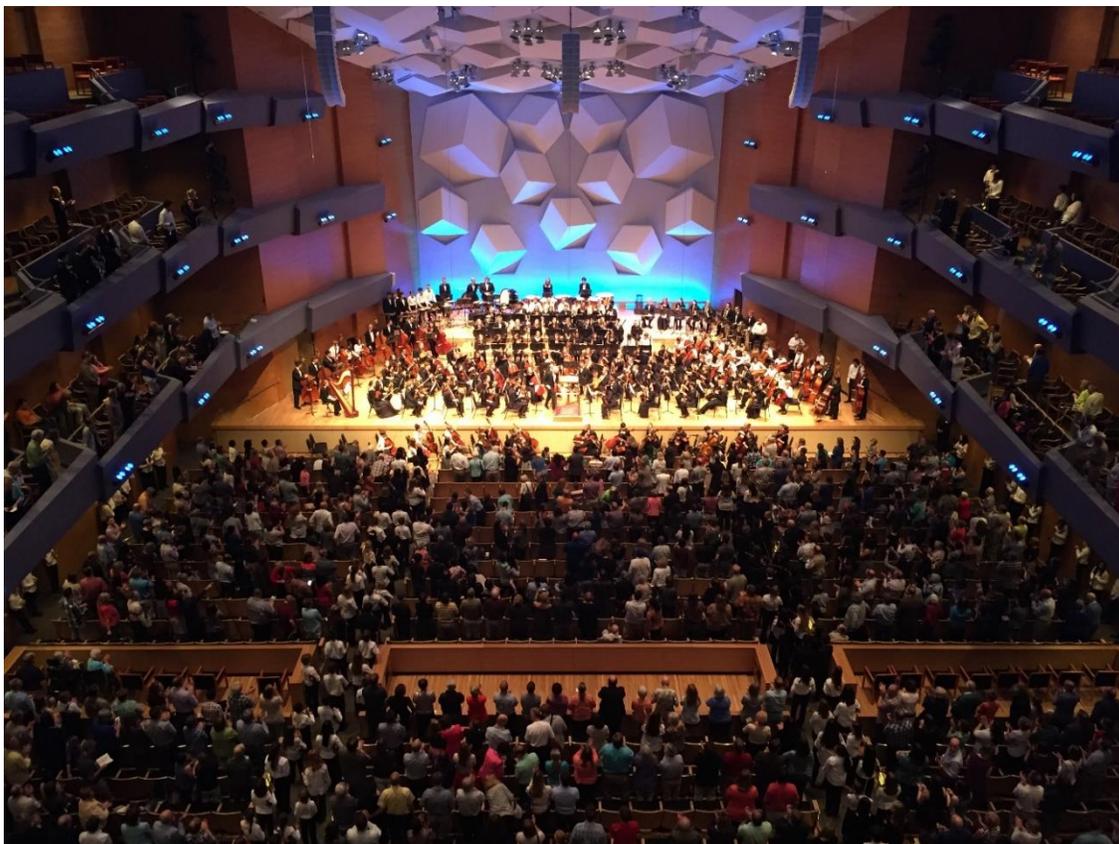


greater twin cities youth symphonies



Musician's Handbook 2018 – 19

408 St. Peter Street, Suite 300

Saint Paul, MN 55102

Phone 651.602.6800 |

mail@gtcys.org | www.gtcys.org



WELCOME

Dear GTCYS Musicians,

Welcome to the GTCYS family! You are now part of GTCYS' wonderful legacy of transforming young people through music and we are delighted to have you involved. From our youngest in Harmony and Philharmonia to our Symphony musicians, every student in our nine school-year orchestras will benefit from opportunities for music making, social activities, and personal development. These are integral parts of GTCYS' holistic approach to music education that will equip students with skills and values to boost their success in school and beyond.

Amazing orchestral repertoire, festival concerts at Orchestra Hall, numerous community performances, and vibrant collaborations with special guests, are just a few of the artistic highlights to which we look forward. Pizza parties, concert outings, and orchestra retreats will provide fun social outlets. Students can also build valuable leadership and communication skills as mentors, ambassadors, and volunteers.

Being a GTCYS member is rewarding and enjoyable, and we know you will create lifelong memories with us. It is also an honor and a responsibility. We ask that students and parents "play your part," which begins by thoroughly reading this handbook. Our expectations and policies are designed with students in mind to help them achieve their individual and collective best. This handbook should answer most of your questions about all things GTCYS, and you can count on us to communicate closely with you throughout the year. Should you have any questions or suggestions along the way, please contact a member of our staff.

Thank you for your involvement. We look forward to a wonderful year with your family!

Sincerely,

Megen Balda
Executive Director

Mark Russell Smith
Artistic Director

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GTCYS ADMINISTRATIVE & ARTISTIC STAFF

GTCYS Office

408 St. Peter Street, Suite 300, Saint Paul, MN 55102
Tel 651.602.6800 | Fax 651.292.3281 | Email mail@gtcys.org
www.gtcys.org

[Facebook](#)
[Twitter](#)
[Instagram](#)

GTCYS Administrative Team

Megen Balda, Executive Director	651.602.6802	megen@gtcys.org
Miranda Bryan, Program Director	651.602.6807	miranda@gtcys.org
Alex Hake, Operations Manager	651.602.6805	alex@gtcys.org
Katie Heilman, Program Assistant	651.602.6803	katie@gtcys.org
Paul Schimming, Librarian	651.602.6804	paul@gtcys.org
Gracie Miller, Community Engagement Coordinator	651.602.6806	gracie@gtcys.org
Danielle Kincks, Development Manager	651.602.6808	danielle@gtcys.org
Naomi Schroeter, Harmony Coordinator (VISTA)	651.602.6809	naomi@gtcys.org

GTCYS Artistic Team

Conductors are responsible for conducting rehearsals and performances of the orchestra and selecting repertoire. Each of GTCYS' eight conductors is a member of the Artistic Team and plays an integral role in artistic planning, auditioning, placement, and recruiting.

Mark Russell Smith, Artistic Director & Symphony conductor	mark@gtcys.org
Mary Sorlie, Philharmonia East & West conductor & Harmony teaching artist	mary@gtcys.org
Ernesto Estigarribia, Sinfonia East conductor	ernesto@gtcys.org
Kent Musser, Sinfonia West conductor	kent@gtcys.org
Dan Mollick, Concertino conductor	dan@gtcys.org
Barbara Flooding, Camerata conductor & Harmony teaching artist	barbara@gtcys.org
Mark Gitch, Concert Orchestra conductor	mgitch@gtcys.org
Gary Wolfman, Philharmonic conductor	gary@gtcys.org

Rehearsal Assistants

Rehearsal Assistants (RAs) are the primary point of contact between students, parents, and the staff at GTCYS events. The RA functions as the personnel manager and assistant for each orchestra, undertaking administrative tasks so that the conductor may focus on the orchestra. RAs set up the chairs for the orchestra, take attendance and monitor absences, distribute and collect music, help members with musical needs, and assist the conductor during rehearsals. GTCYS does not provide contact information for our Rehearsal Assistants. To report an absence, follow the steps on page 20.

How do I contact my conductor or RA?

Conductors and RAs do not have offices or voicemails at GTCYS. If you need to relay info to an RA, do so in person at rehearsal. You may also speak with your conductor at rehearsal or email. If you have a question for your RA between rehearsals, you may relay it through the Program Assistant (Katie Heilman) or Program Director (Miranda Bryan).

How do I contact the office staff?

GTCYS' office hours are Monday through Friday, 9:00am – 5:00pm. If you have questions or concerns, contact us at 651.602.6800 or mail@gtcys.org. The staff is happy to talk to you.

If you have questions about:	Talk to:
Attendance _____	Rehearsal Assistant (RA) or Program Assistant
Schedule or events _____	RA or Operations Manager
Placement/seating within the orchestra _____	Conductor
Tuition payments and student records _____	Program Assistant
Scholarships _____	Program Director
Student records _____	Program Assistant
Lost music _____	RA or Librarian
Parent concerns _____	Program Director or Executive Director
Auditions _____	Program Assistant
Fundraising ideas/events _____	Executive Director
Sponsorships or grants _____	Development Manager or Executive Director
Advertising _____	Executive Director
Touring _____	Program Director or Executive Director
Student leadership opportunities _____	Program Director
Volunteering _____	Program Assistant
Board membership _____	Executive Director
Alumni _____	Executive Director

MISSION & ABOUT GTCYS

Our Mission

In the conviction that music nourishes the mind, body, and spirit of the individual and enriches the community, the Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphonies provides a rigorous and inspiring orchestral experience for young musicians.

About Us

The Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphonies (GTCYS) transforms young musicians of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds by breaking down barriers to music instruction and providing exceptional year-round orchestral experiences. Led by Artistic Director Mark Russell Smith, outstanding conductors, and coaches from the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra (SPCO) and Minnesota Orchestra, GTCYS serves 1,000 students ages 8-18 through nine academic-year orchestras and two summer programs. As of fall 2018, GTCYS' newest ninth orchestra, Sinfonia East, will meet increased demand and serve students in the east metro. In 2016, GTCYS launched an afterschool program, Harmony, which provides beginning violin instruction to students at Riverview Elementary School in St. Paul's West Side neighborhood.

Each year, GTCYS shares more than 25 concerts with 12,000 audience members at locations across the region including Orchestra Hall, The Ordway, and Ted Mann Concert Hall, along with free community concerts at homeless shelters, schools, and care centers. Renowned for its rich international touring history, GTCYS' Symphony tours biennially, most recently to Eastern Europe (2018), Argentina (2016), and Spain (2014). In total, GTCYS inspires more than 17,000 children and adults through our educational programs, free community activities, concerts, and special events each year.

Founded in 1972, GTCYS' 16,000 alumni include leaders in every field who developed lifelong values of teamwork, discipline, and community engagement during their GTCYS experience. With the help of generous donors, GTCYS will award more than \$70,000 in need-based tuition scholarships in 2018–19 season. Through a unique partnership since 2011, GTCYS and the SPCO work together to strengthen our community, build audiences, provide educational opportunities for students, and promote the value of orchestral music. For more information, visit www.gtcys.org.

GTCYS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

GTCYS' Board of Directors comprises 15–20 individuals who volunteer their time, provide expertise, and share financial resources in support of the organization, while providing sound governance, strategic planning and financial oversight. Trustees include representatives from Minnesota's leading corporations, some of whom are GTCYS alumni or parents of current or past GTCYS students. For a current list of directors, please visit www.gtcys.org/about/staff.

GTCYS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Launched in 2012, the Alumni Association is free and open to anyone who participated in any GTCYS orchestra for a year or more, and provides ongoing social, musical, and professional connections among alumni and with GTCYS. Members receive invitations to special events, discounted tickets to GTCYS concerts, and an alumni newsletter. For more information, visit www.gtcys.org/community/alumni.

REHEARSALS

What should I bring to each rehearsal?

- Music stand
- Your instrument
- Your music
- Accessories (bow, mouth pieces, strings, rosin, mute, reeds, rock stop)
- Sharpened pencil with a good eraser

GTCYS members are required to bring a sharpened pencil and eraser to every rehearsal. It is an important part of the orchestral experience to learn how to mark orchestra parts (bowing, breathing marks, articulations, fingerings, tempo changes, etc.). **Mark only with pencil;—never mark in ink or with stickers.**

Music

GTCYS' music library is a costly and valuable asset. Orchestra parts are reused in future seasons, and many original parts are out of print and irreplaceable. Each student has a responsibility to return their music at the end of the year in the same condition it began.

Any marks in music should be written lightly in pencil, preferably not a mechanical or colored pencil. The beauty of live music is that each performance is different; the next player using your parts may have different bowings, fingerings, tempos, etc., so we need the ability to erase all marks. Ink markings are unacceptable in all cases, and any parts marked with pen or marker will be considered damaged and in need of replacement. Pens have no place in instrument cases or music folders.

All members are responsible for the condition of their music and folder, and will be charged a minimum of \$5 per part (the maximum cost may be as high as \$30 per part) if the music is lost or damaged. GTCYS' Librarian will assess damage and determine replacement costs as necessary.

Safety

GTCYS' staff is present at all activities, but we cannot always control the presence of outside guests at our host venues. Accordingly, we encourage parents and students to monitor and report any unusual strangers or behavior to our staff.

Rehearsal Schedule & Locations

Monday Rehearsals		
Philharmonia West	6:30 – 8:00pm	Edina Senior Center, 5280 Grandview Square, Edina
Concertino	7:00 – 8:45pm	Wooddale Church, 5532 Wooddale Avenue, Edina
Concert Orchestra	7:00 – 9:00pm	Richfield United Methodist Church, 5835 Lyndale Avenue S, Minneapolis
Symphony	7:00 – 9:30pm	Good Samaritan Church, 5730 Grove Street, Edina
Tuesday Rehearsals		
Philharmonia East	6:30 – 8:00pm	Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran, 1669 Arcade Street, Saint Paul
Sinfonia West	7:00 – 8:30pm	Mayflower Church, 106 E Diamond Lake Road, Minneapolis
Camerata	7:00 – 8:45pm	Wooddale Church, 5532 Wooddale Avenue, Edina
Philharmonic	7:00 – 9:30pm	Shir Tikvah, 5000 Girard Avenue S, Minneapolis
Thursday Rehearsals		
Sinfonia East	7:00 – 8:30pm	Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran, 1669 Arcade Street, Saint Paul

For Percussionists in All Orchestras

EVERY percussionist should be prepared to bring the following list of equipment to each rehearsal and concert. Bring all of these items to your ensemble's first rehearsal of the semester. Percussion equipment for subsequent rehearsals will be determined by you and your conductor.

- Snare Drum with case and stand
- Snare Drum sticks
- Timpani mallets (1 pair, felt: general purpose)
- Bell/Xylophone mallets (1 pair: plastic)
- A-440 Tuning fork or pitch pipe (Philharmonic and Symphony players should use tuning fork)
- Small black hand towel (for holding mallets on metal stands at rehearsal)

Philharmonic and Symphony percussionists should also bring their own:

- Timpani mallets (at least 2 pairs, including general purpose and staccato)
- Yarn mallets (1 pair, general purpose)
- Triangle beaters
- Wire brushes (if needed)

If you have questions about any of the items on this list, please ask your private teacher, school music director, or email the GTCYS office at mail@gtcys.org.

A percussion coach will be at your rehearsal to assist your section on several dates throughout the season. Please refer to your Season Schedule in September for accurate dates. Inform your Rehearsal Assistant at least a month in advance if you anticipate missing such a rehearsal.

DIRECTIONS TO REHEARSALS

Families are encouraged to get their own directions using a website such as www.googlemaps.com and check traffic conditions and possible construction or detours on <https://hb.511mn.org>.

Carpooling

To facilitate transportation to and from GTCYS activities, we encourage families to coordinate carpools to the extent possible. Carpool lists will be distributed electronically every semester. GTCYS encourages families to investigate mass transit options for transportation to rehearsals through [Metro Transit](#).

PHILHARMONIA WEST: Mondays, 6:30 – 8:00pm (Grand View Room)
Edina Senior Center, 5280 Grandview Square, Edina, MN 55436

From Highway 62: take Highway 62 (from either direction) and take the MN-100 exit. Go north to take the exit towards Eden Avenue. Merge onto Grange Road, turn right onto Eden Avenue and turn left toward Grandview Square. Turn right onto Grandview Square, and the Edina Senior Center will be on your right.

From the north: Drive south on Highway 100 to the Vernon Avenue Exit. Follow Vernon Avenue west. Turn left on Link Road. Continue straight onto Eden Avenue. Turn right onto Grandview Square, and the Edina Senior Center will be on your right.

Parking: Parking is available surrounding the Senior Center.

PHILHARMONIA EAST: Tuesdays, 6:30 – 8:00pm

SINFONIA EAST: Thursdays, 7:00 – 8:30pm

Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church, 1669 Arcade Street, Saint Paul, MN 55106

The church is located on Arcade Street just south of Larpenteur Avenue. The main entrance is on the south side of the church, off Idaho Avenue.

From 694 or 36 (either direction): Go south on Hwy. 61, which turns into Arcade Street. Take a right on Idaho Avenue, the church will be on your right.

From I-35E (either direction): Take exit 110A and go east on Larpenteur until it intersects with Arcade. Take a right on Arcade and the first right onto Idaho Avenue, the church will be on your right.

Parking: The church has free parking available on the south side of the church.

SINFONIA WEST: Tuesdays, 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Mayflower Church, 106 East Diamond Lake Road, Minneapolis, MN 55419

The church is centrally located at the northwest intersection of I-35W and Diamond Lake Road in Minneapolis.

I-35W Southbound: Take I-35W south to Diamond Lake Road Exit. Turn right (west) onto Diamond Lake Road. Church is on the right.

I-35W Northbound: Take I-35W north to Diamond Lake Road Exit. Turn left (west) onto Diamond Lake Road. Cross the bridge over I-35W. Church is on the right.

Parking: Free parking is available in the church lot (accessible from Diamond Lake Road) and on nearby residential streets.

CONCERTINO: Mondays, 7:00 – 8:45pm

CAMERATA: Tuesdays, 7:00 – 8:45pm

Wooddale Church, 5532 Wooddale Avenue, Edina, MN 55424

This is Wooddale Church EDINA CAMPUS, not Wooddale Church Eden Prairie.

From the south: Drive north on Highway 100 to the 50th Street Exit. Take the 50th exit and turn right (east) on to 50th Street. Continue a few blocks and turn right (south) on to Wooddale Ave. Continue to Lexington Street. Turn right on to Lexington into the parking lot.

From the north: Drive south on Highway 100 to the 50th Street Exit. Take the 50th exit and turn left (east) on to 50th Street. Follow the directions from 50th Street above.

From the east or west: Take Highway 62 or 394 to Highway 100 and follow directions above.

Parking: There is a large, free parking lot on the west side of the church by the main entrance. Access lot from Wooddale Avenue.

CONCERT ORCHESTRA: Mondays, 7:00 – 9:00pm

Richfield United Methodist Church, 5835 Lyndale Avenue S, Minneapolis, MN 55419

The church is located on the east side of Lyndale Avenue in Minneapolis, just north of Bachmans.

I-35W Southbound: Take I-35W south. Take the Minnesota 62 west exit. Exit on Lyndale Avenue. Turn right (north) onto Lyndale Avenue. Church will be in the fourth block on the right.

I-35W northbound: Take I-35W north. Take exit 11 for Minnesota 62 west. Slight right onto MN-121. Take the first right onto West 58th Street. Take the first right (south) onto Lyndale Avenue South. Church will be on your left.

Parking: Free parking is available in the church lot (accessible from Lyndale Avenue South).

PHILHARMONIC: Tuesdays, 7:00 – 9:30pm

Shir Tikvah, 5000 Girard Avenue S, Minneapolis, MN 55419

Shir Tikvah is in south Minneapolis near Lake Harriet and is on 50th Street between Minnehaha Parkway & Girard Avenue.

From the south: Take 35W north to the Diamond Lake Road exit. Go west on Diamond Lake Road approximately 10 blocks to Lyndale. Turn right on Lyndale and continue a few blocks to Minnehaha Parkway. Turn left onto the Parkway and follow it several blocks to stoplight. Shir Tikvah is on the right corner.

From the north: Take 35W south and exit on 46th Street. Go west on 46th Street approximately 10 blocks to Lyndale. Turn left on Lyndale and continue to 50th Street. Turn right on to 50th and continue to Girard Avenue. Shir Tikvah is on the left.

From the east: Take Highway 62 west or I-94 west to 35W and follow directions above.

From the west: Take Highway 100 (north or south) to the 50th Street exit. Go east on 50th Street and continue through Edina past France Avenue. Go through Penn Avenue intersection and continue approximately 8 more blocks to Girard Avenue. Shir Tikvah is on the right. People coming from the west may also take Highway 62 east to Penn Avenue; go north on Penn, turn right on 50th and continue to Shir Tikvah.

Parking: **Parking is extremely limited and restricted to residential streets. Carpooling is strongly recommended.** Street parking is available on Girard (east side of street only) and on Minnehaha Parkway, both south and north of 50th. There is a small parking lot west of the Parkway, which is owned by the community center; *GTCYS cars parked there may do so at their own risk knowing that they may be subject to ticketing/towing.* Parking is also available in the Burroughs School lot one block west of Shir Tikvah on 50th.

SYMPHONY: Mondays, 7:00 – 9:30pm (Fellowship Hall upstairs)
Good Samaritan Methodist Church, 5730 Grove Street, Edina, MN 55436

From Highway 62: Take Highway 62 (from either direction) and take the Tracy Avenue exit. Go north on Tracy Avenue. After passing Benton Avenue, take a left (heading west) onto Grove Street and proceed until you see the church on your right.

From the north: Drive south on Highway 100 to the Vernon Avenue Exit. Follow Vernon Avenue west as it winds around. Turn left (south) on Tracy Avenue. Take a right (heading west) onto Grove Street and proceed until you see the church on your right.

Parking: Park in the upper lot and enter through the double doors. Rehearsals are in the Fellowship Hall on the left.

2018–19 GTCYS SEASON SCHEDULE

Fall Festival Concerts

Sunday, November 18

Orchestra Hall, Minneapolis

1:00pm Concert: Philharmonia East, Sinfonia West, Camerata, Philharmonic, & Symphony

4:30pm Concert: Philharmonia West, Sinfonia East, Concertino, Concert Orchestra, & Symphony

Tickets at www.minnesotaorchestra.org/gtcys

Sinfonia West & Philharmonic Holiday Concert**

Sunday, December 2 at 3pm

Church of the Sacred Heart, Robbinsdale

Camerata Holiday Concert+

Tuesday, December 4 at 7:00pm

Friendship Village, Bloomington

Winter Auditions

Saturday, December 8

Mayflower Church, South Minneapolis

Visit www.gtcys.org/auditions for details

Philharmonia East Holiday Concert+

Saturday, December 8 at 10:30am

Johanna Shores, Arden Hills

Philharmonia West Holiday Concert+

Saturday, December 8 at 2pm

Folkestone Care Center, Wayzata

Sinfonia East & Concertino Holiday Concert**

Sunday, December 9 at 4pm

Roseville Lutheran Church, Roseville

Concert Orchestra Holiday Concert+

Wednesday, December 12 at 7:30pm

Union Gospel Mission, St. Paul

Symphony Series Concert

Friday, December 14 at 7:30pm

Ted Mann Concert Hall, Minneapolis

Ticket details forthcoming

Young Soloists Concerto Competition Finals**

Sunday, January 27 at 6:30pm

Sundin Music Hall, Hamline University, St. Paul

Symphony Concert with University of Minnesota

University Symphony Orchestra**

Monday, February 11 at 7:30pm

Ted Mann Concert Hall, Minneapolis

Philharmonia East & West Day Trip+

Saturday, February 23

Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter

Symphony Series Concert with Philharmonia East

Sunday, February 24 at 2pm

Ted Mann Concert Hall, Minneapolis

Ticket details forthcoming

Sinfonia West & Philharmonic Concert

Featuring piano soloist Kyung Kim

Sunday, February 24 at 7pm

Ted Mann Concert Hall, Minneapolis

Ticket details forthcoming

Camerata & Harmony Concert

(A Kids Playing for Kids event)**

Saturday, March 2 at 10am

Humboldt High School, St. Paul

Concertino Community Concert**

Saturday, March 2 at 2pm

Augsburg University, Minneapolis

Concert Orchestra Family Concert

(A Kids Playing for Kids event)**

Sunday, March 3 at 5:30pm

The Loft Stage at East Ridge High School, Woodbury

Sinfonia East Concert with University of Minnesota

Campus Orchestra**

Monday, March 4 at 7:30pm

Ted Mann Concert Hall, Minneapolis

Camerata & Concert Orchestra Concert

Saturday, April 13 at 1pm

Benson Great Hall at Bethel University, Arden Hills

Ticketed event: details forthcoming

2018–19 Season Schedule continues on the next page

Philharmonic Concert **

Sunday, April 14 at 4pm
St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Mahtomedi

**Concertino at Family Arts Blast
(A Kids Playing for Kids event) ****

Saturday, April 20, 10:30am – 1pm
The Ordway, Saint Paul

Sinfonia West Twin Cities School Tour+

Thursday, April 25
Locations to be announced

Sinfonia East Twin Cities School Tour+

Friday, April 26
Performances at St. Paul Music Academy, St. Paul,
and Oneka Elementary, Hugo

Symphony Series Concert with Philharmonia West

Young Soloists in the Spotlight
Saturday, April 27 at 7:30pm
Ted Mann Concert Hall, Minneapolis
Ticket details forthcoming

Spring Festival Concerts

Sunday, May 5 at 1:00pm & 4:30pm
Orchestra Hall, Minneapolis

1:00pm Concert: Philharmonia East, Sinfonia East,
Camerata, Philharmonic, & Symphony

4:30pm Concert: Harmony, Philharmonia West, Sinfonia
West, Concertino, Concert Orchestra, & Symphony

Tickets at www.minnesotaorchestra.org/gtcys

Symphony Orchestrating Opportunities Benefit

Monday, May 13 at 7:30pm
Orchestra Hall, Minneapolis
Ticket details forthcoming

2019–20 Auditions

May – June dates TBD, 2019
Visit www.gtcys.org/auditions for details

**** Free & open to the public**

+Private Concert/Event, not open to the public

CONCERT LOCATIONS

GTCYS will provide driving directions before each concert, but parents are highly encouraged to get their own directions using a search engine such as and check for traffic and weather conditions and possible construction and/or detours in advance.

CONCERT TICKETS

Festival Concert Tickets (all orchestras)

A note about festival tickets: Fall and Spring Festivals are split into two separate back-to-back concerts. Please read the instructions below carefully and look for additional ticket details and reminders by email throughout the season.

Fall Festivals – All Orchestras

Sunday, November 18, 2018 at Orchestra Hall, Minneapolis

- Concert #1 at 1:00pm: Philharmonia East, Sinfonia West, Camerata, Philharmonic, and Symphony
- Concert #2 at 4:30pm: Harmony, Philharmonia West, Sinfonia East, Concertino, Concert Orchestra, and Symphony

Spring Festivals – All Orchestras

Sunday, May 5, 2019 at Orchestra Hall, Minneapolis

- Concert #1 at 1:00pm: Philharmonia East, Sinfonia East, Camerata, Philharmonic, and Symphony
- Concert #2 at 4:30pm: Harmony, Philharmonia West, Sinfonia West, Concertino, Concert Orchestra, and Symphony

How to Purchase Festival Concert Tickets

- Tickets for the Fall Festivals will go on sale on October 5, 2018 at 10am.
- Tickets for the Spring Festivals will go on sale on March 22, 2019 at 10am.
- There will be a pre-sale for each festival in which each family is given the opportunity to purchase up to 4 tickets before they go on sale to the general public.
 - The pre-sale for the Fall Festival will run from September 21 through October 3
 - The pre-sale for the Spring Festival will run from March 8 through March 20
- To purchase tickets, call 612.371.5656 or order online at www.minnesotaorchestra.org/gtcys
- Prices vary by seating; All seats are reserved.
- Families with students in multiple orchestras who wish to purchase tickets for both concerts will receive a “2 for 1” discount. These families will receive instructions via email about how to receive the discount.

Symphony Series

GTCYS' premier ensemble, Symphony, performs its own concert series at Ted Mann Concert Hall, University of Minnesota. All GTCYS students and their families are highly encouraged to attend. Information on how to purchase tickets will be made available in the near future.

- Friday, December 14, 2018 at 7:30pm
- Sunday, February 24, 2019 at 2:00pm (with Philharmonia East)
- Saturday, April 27, 2019 at 7:30pm (with Philharmonia West)

CONCERT RECORDINGS

Recordings of GTCYS Festivals and Symphony concerts are available at www.westmarkproductions.com.

CONCERT ATTIRE

Each orchestra has its own required dress code for concerts. Inappropriate attire may lead to dismissal from a concert. GTCYS is aware that students grow out of concert clothes quickly and encourages families to consider second-hand options. If obtaining concert attire is a financial barrier for your family, please contact GTCYS' Program Director Miranda Bryan at 651.602.6807 to discuss alternative options.

Attire for Philharmonia East, Philharmonia West, Sinfonia, Concertino, and Camerata

Women

- Floor- or ankle-length black skirt or black dress slacks (not form-fitting)
- Bright white (not off-white) long-sleeved, non-transparent dress shirt. Sleeves must be elbow length or longer.
- Black socks or tights (no bare legs or feet) and black dress shoes (no open toes or sandals)

Men

- Black dress pants
- Bright white long-sleeved button-down shirt and a black bow tie
- Black socks (at least mid-calf height) and black dress shoes (no open toes or sandals)

Non-Binary Gender

- Pick one of the above options

Attire for Concert Orchestra, Philharmonic, and Symphony

Women

- Floor- or ankle-length, long-sleeved black dress OR
- Floor- or ankle-length black skirt and long-sleeved (at least $\frac{3}{4}$ length), non-transparent black dress shirt OR
- Black dress slacks (not form-fitting) and long-sleeved (at least $\frac{3}{4}$ length), non-transparent black dress shirt
- Black socks or tights (no bare legs or feet) and black dress shoes (no open toes or sandals)

Men

- Black suit, tuxedo, or black jacket with black pants
- Bright white long-sleeved button-down shirt and a black bow tie
- Black socks (at least mid-calf height) and black dress shoes (no open toes or sandals)

Non-Binary Gender

- Pick one of the above options

FAMILY CONCERT ATTIRE

Students wear the following attire for specified "family concerts" or less formal performances throughout the season. The dress for all genders is the same.

- Floor or ankle-length black skirt or black pants
- Single-color long-sleeve (at least $\frac{3}{4}$ length sleeves) shirt. Any style is satisfactory: Button-down, sweater, turtleneck, blouse, etc. No patterns, words, or logos. Avoid white or black if possible.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES & EXTRA OPPORTUNITIES

Academic Year Program This year, more than 750 beginning to advanced students ages 8 – 18 will participate in one of GTCYS' nine academic-year orchestras and Harmony strings instruction program and share 25 concerts throughout the community. Taking place at eight venues across the Twin Cities, rehearsals are the foundation of students' experience, focusing on the educational process as well as technical and musical skills. GTCYS also provides a social setting where like-minded students can feel supported, strive for excellence, and achieve common goals through music. The orchestras, in order of increasing technical proficiency, are:

- Harmony (strings instruction program)
- Philharmonia East and West (strings only)
- Sinfonia East and West
- Concertino
- Camerata
- Concert Orchestra
- Philharmonic
- Symphony

Retreats Two day-long retreats in fall and winter offer intense rehearsal time and social activities providing students opportunities to get to know each other. This orchestral immersion experience and social enrichment is an essential element of GTCYS. Retreats are mandatory. NEW this year: [Students must register for the retreat in advance.](#)

Bring a Friend Night "Bring a Friend Nights" will occur in the spring semester (see your orchestra's schedule). Orchestra members may bring friends who play orchestral instruments; friends may also attend a different orchestra depending on their ability and comfort level. Friends are asked to RSVP in advance.

Concerto Competition GTCYS' Young Soloists Concerto Competition is an annual opportunity for any current GTCYS musician to showcase their individual talents. Contestants prepare a concerto or solo work, perform live with piano accompaniment for professional judges in the preliminary round, and receive educational feedback about their performance. Selected finalists perform in a free public recital with a collaborative pianist. From that round, one or two winners will be selected to perform in concert with GTCYS' premier orchestra, Symphony, and Artistic Director Mark Russell Smith. [Click here to learn more and to register to compete.](#)

Concerto Competition Dates and deadlines:

- Applications due Monday, December 10, 2018: Applications will be available in September 2018.
- Preliminary Round: Sunday, January 13, 2019, at Lloyd Ultan Recital Hall, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis
- Finals Round: Sunday, January 27, 2019, at Sundin Hall, Hamline University, St. Paul
- Winner's performance with Symphony: Saturday, April 27, 2019, 7:30pm

Student Volunteer Opportunities (optional and encouraged) GTCYS offers opportunities for GTCYS students to contribute to their own musical and personal progress and enrich the success of their orchestras and their communities. Volunteer positions include:

- **Chamber Musician:** you are a member of a chamber music ensemble which is interested in performing at special events.
- **Student Musicologist** (all students): research a piece your orchestra is working on and share it with audiences at concerts.
- **Audition Aide** (grades 9–12): greet and check-in students at auditions (spring, summer or December).
- **Social Coordinator:** welcome students at first rehearsals, help with new-student orientation, and plan your orchestra's social activities.
- **Donor/Volunteer Recognition Assistant:** write thank you letters and/or make thank you calls to donors and volunteers.

- **Library Aide** (grades 8–12): assist GTCYS' Librarian with music preparation and filing in the office (copying, cleaning, and counting out parts).

Students may [sign up for Volunteer Opportunities online](#). For information about getting involved, contact GTCYS' Program Assistant Katie Heilman at katie@gtcys.org. If you have your own volunteer ideas, let us know!

GTCYS Leadership Opportunities (optional):

- **Ambassadors** (All Orchestras): Student Ambassadors are invited to share a presentation about GTCYS with their school orchestra or band in February 2019. This program is an opportunity for any GTCYS student to develop communication skills, demonstrate pride as an orchestral musician, and help peers understand the value of GTCYS' programs. Sign-up forms will be available in September 2018.
- **Harmony Junior and Senior Mentors:** [Harmony](#) is GTCYS' violin instruction program for 3rd – 5th grade students in the West Side Neighborhood of St. Paul led by teaching artists Barbara Flooding and Mary Sorlie. Group violin lessons are held at Riverview School of Excellence (160 Isabel St. E., St. Paul) from mid-October through mid-May. Mentors provide valuable peer-to-peer inspiration and will help Harmony students see their own future potential as young musicians. Contact Gracie Miller at gracie@gtcys.org with questions. [Learn more about Harmony here](#) and [read the full description of Harmony Junior and Senior mentors here](#).
 - **Harmony Junior Mentors:** This program is open to GTCYS violin and viola students who are in 8th grade – 10th grade. This is volunteer (non-paid) position with a flexible schedule. [Sign up here to be a Harmony Junior Mentor](#).
 - **Harmony Senior Mentors:** This is a paid position (\$25/session) for students in 11th and 12th grade. Senior mentors must commit to at least one session per week. Senior mentors commit to at least one day a week, October through mid-May 2018. A maximum of 4 absences is allowed. [Apply here to be a Harmony Senior Mentor](#).
- **Donor Liaisons** (all Philharmonic and Symphony members): As members of GTCYS' premier ensembles, all Philharmonic and Symphony musicians are required to participate in donor liaison activities which will help them develop important interpersonal and communications skills. Activities may include writing thank you notes and/or invitations to GTCYS donors and talking to guests at open rehearsals and concert receptions. In addition to providing a valuable learning opportunity, this will help strengthen relationships with donors.
- **Student Mentors:** Advanced Philharmonic and Symphony students can serve as mentors for Philharmonia, Sinfonia, Concertino, and Camerata. By rehearsing and demonstrating in a side-by-side capacity at rehearsals, mentors enhance younger students' educational experience and deepen their own learning. [Application forms are available here and will be reviewed and accepted on an ongoing basis](#).
- **Mentors from the University of Minnesota:** Through this partnership between GTCYS' Symphony and the University of Minnesota's School of Music, graduate students provide vital leadership at Symphony rehearsals, serve as role models, enhance students' learning experience, and gain valuable training in the process.

Summer Orchestras GTCYS offers students an opportunity to keep playing in the summer. The non-auditioned program includes three orchestras of different levels (two full orchestras and a chamber orchestra) which rehearse weekly and perform a free concert at Como Park Pavilion in Saint Paul. [Program details will be announced online in February 2019](#).

GTCYS String Orchestra Camp: Led by GTCYS conductor Mary Sorlie, this week-long day camp gives string students age 8 – 12 an opportunity to develop their skills, make friends, and explore cultural activities in downtown Saint Paul. [Program details will be announced online in February 2019](#).

THE SAINT PAUL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA PARTNERSHIP

In 2011, The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra (SPCO) and Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphonies formed a unique strategic partnership. Our organizations share office space and resources, plus ideas and creativity to produce an array of audience development initiatives and artistic opportunities for the benefit of GTCYS' students and the greater community. Together, we are working to strengthen our community, build future audiences, provide educational opportunities for students and promote the value of classical music.

As a benefit of GTCYS membership, families have access to these special SPCO activities this year:

- **Chamber Music Institute with The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra:** This long-standing program provides Philharmonic and Symphony students a prestigious opportunity to work with SPCO musicians who will both coach and **perform alongside** GTCYS members. [Symphony and Philharmonic members can apply here by Wednesday, September 26](#). Important dates include:
 - November 19 or 20, 2018, 6:00pm – 7:00pm: Rehearsal
 - Saturday, January 5, 2019: All-day immersive rehearsal and performance experience
- **Volunteer opportunities:** GTCYS students and parents have the opportunity to volunteer at SPCO Family events and help introduce young children to the orchestra to the first time. [View the list of opportunities and sign up here.](#)
- **Exclusive SPCO Chamber Music performances for GTCYS students at the January 12 and 26 Winter Retreats**
- **GTCYS Nights at the SPCO: Use the promotional code 'gtcysnightout' for these exclusive opportunities to enjoy SPCO concerts with your GTCYS Community!**

November 10, 8:00pm: Deep Discounts for GTCYS Parents (students are always free)

- [Mozart's Haffner Symphony](#) at the Ordway Concert Hall in St. Paul on Saturday, November 10 at 8:00pm with exclusive meet and greet with GTCYS families and SPCO musicians from 7:15pm – 7:45pm. GTCYS families receive 2 \$10 adult tickets per order, and up to 4 free child tickets per adult attending. Use the promotional code 'gtcysnightout' for the discount.

January 18, 8:00pm: FREE concert for GTCYS families (students are always free)

- [Beethoven's Eighth Symphony with Pekka Kuusisto](#) at Wooddale Church in Eden Prairie on Friday, January 18, 8:00pm with exclusive meet and greet with GTCYS families and SPCO musicians from 7:15pm – 7:45pm. GTCYS families receive 2 FREE adult tickets per order, and up to 4 free child tickets per adult attending. Use the promotional code 'gtcysnightout' for the free tickets.

EXPECTATIONS & CONDUCT: 2018–19 SEASON

By understanding and following GTCYS' expectations, you help create a positive, productive experience for you and your fellow students. Please read the following carefully and inform your conductor, rehearsal assistant, or GTCYS staff of any questions.

Student conduct: Your individual success and your orchestra's are contingent on your kind and respectful behavior with fellow orchestra members, conductors, coaches, staff, parents, volunteers, and venue staff. GTCYS students must:

- Be kind and considerate to one another. Think about how your words and actions may be perceived.
- Respect students' differences. Every GTCYS member has a unique background and perspective.
- Listen and participate attentively during rehearsals.
- Keep food and drink (including gum) out of rehearsal and performance spaces at all times. Students are allowed to eat and drink in designated areas only during rehearsal breaks.
- Remove hats at GTCYS' indoor activities (exceptions made for religious and medical reasons)

Cell Phones: Cell phones are prohibited during all GTCYS activities except at breaks or if otherwise asked by a GTCYS conductor. Cell phones will be confiscated if used at inappropriate times. Repeated violations may lead to probation or dismissal.

GTCYS members represent GTCYS at all times: All participating musicians are representatives of the organization, and the behavior of each musician reflects upon the entire group. We are guests at our rehearsal and performance venues.

Attendance: Consistent attendance is required for all rehearsals, concerts, and retreats for the entire season (September – May), as outlined in the attendance policy. Failure to adhere to the attendance policy may result in dismissal from GTCYS with no refund. Families are expected to plan carefully for vacations, college visits, musicals, sports, etc. Concerts, dress rehearsals, and retreats are mandatory.

Preparation: Coming to rehearsals prepared is essential for your and your fellow musicians' success. This includes bringing your music, a pencil, music stand, and all necessary accessories (e.g. reeds, rock stops, mallets) to every GTCYS activity, working with your teacher on difficult passages, and practicing and learning your part outside of rehearsal. Remember: home practice is to learn your own part and rehearsals are for learning everyone else's part.

Instrument Liability: Each GTCYS student/family is responsible for his/her instrument(s). Lost, stolen, or damaged instruments (or instrument accessories) are not GTCYS' responsibility. GTCYS strongly encourages all members to insure their instruments. Should any damage occur to your instrument during a GTCYS activity, please notify your Rehearsal Assistant immediately. Students should keep instruments in their cases when they are not rehearsing.

Participation in School Band and Orchestra Programs: GTCYS and schools share a common goal of educating student musicians; GTCYS supplements and does not replace school music programs. GTCYS strongly encourages its members to actively participate in school band and orchestra programs. If a school band or orchestra concert conflicts with a GTCYS event, GTCYS students should prioritize their commitment to their school ensemble and notify GTCYS as soon as the conflict is known.

Payment and Refunds: GTCYS families must pay all tuition and fees by the deadlines outlined in the enrollment form. Special payment plans can be arranged if flexibility is needed.

Refund policy:

- Retreat, processing, and credit card fees are non-refundable.
- No tuition refunds will be issued after the second rehearsal of a semester. A student who withdraws from the program for any reason before the second rehearsal will receive a refund for that semester, less a \$75 withdrawal fee and other non-refundable fees. If a student withdraws from the program after the second rehearsal of a semester, the family is still responsible for paying full tuition for that semester.
- Families who have paid in full for the entire year and withdraw during first semester will receive a refund for second semester, less a \$75 withdrawal fee and other non-refundable fees. Sibling discounts will be recalculated for withdrawing siblings.

Bullying and Harassment: A safe and inclusive environment is essential for a healthy musical learning community. GTCYS strictly prohibits bullying or harassment of any kind. GTCYS is responsible for investigating, responding to, remediating, and disciplining any reported acts of bullying.

Students who have been bullied or harassed or individuals who have witnessed another member of the GTCYS community being bullied or harassed should immediately inform the conductor. If the individual does not wish to communicate with the conductor for any reason, the individual should contact GTCYS' Program Manager or Executive Director.

Drugs: The distribution, possession and/or un-prescribed use of narcotics, alcohol, cigarettes, and other controlled substances by members is unlawful and strictly forbidden. Any violation will lead to disciplinary review, including probation or dismissal.

Probation and Dismissal: A musician may be put on probation or dismissed from GTCYS at the discretion of the conductor and/or Executive Director for reasons including, but not limited to: violation of the absence policy, lack of musical preparedness, and behavior/conduct concerns such as, but not limited to bullying, harassment, vandalism, theft, use of illegal substances, the possession of a weapon, or any behavior that undermines the integrity of the organization.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

All GTCYS members are expected to attend all rehearsals and concerts. Consistent attendance at rehearsals, dress rehearsals, retreats, and concerts is essential to GTCYS' educational and musical quality. **Remember, consistent rehearsal attendance benefits not only you, but also your orchestra**, since practicing at home is about learning your part, and rehearsals are about learning everyone else's part. **GTCYS members are all responsible for knowing the time commitment for their orchestra. Subscribe to your orchestra's calendar here:**

- [Philharmonia East Calendar](#)
- [Philharmonia West Calendar](#)
- [Sinfonia East Calendar](#)
- [Sinfonia West Calendar](#)
- [Concertino Calendar](#)
- [Camerata Calendar](#)
- [Concert Orchestra Calendar](#)
- [Philharmonic Calendar](#)
- [Symphony Calendar](#)

Dress Rehearsals and Concerts:

- **Dress rehearsals are mandatory:** Missing a dress rehearsal may result in not being permitted to perform in the concert.
- **Attendance at every concert is mandatory.** If you anticipate missing a concert, you must notify GTCYS as soon as you are aware of the conflict. Missing a concert may lead to suspension or dismissal from GTCYS without refund.

Retreats

- The fall and winter retreats are **mandatory**, and the retreat fee is non-refundable. Dates are listed on the orchestra schedules.

Students are allowed two rehearsal absences per concert cycle:

- **2 ABSENCES** from the first rehearsal in September through the December concert
- **2 ABSENCES** from the first rehearsal in January through the February/March concert
- **2 ABSENCES** from the first rehearsal after the February/March concert to the May 5 Spring Festival Concert

Special circumstances:

- In the event that a school band or orchestra concert conflicts with a GTCYS activity, students should prioritize their school ensemble commitment and **report the conflict to GTCYS as soon as they are aware.** Students should still make every effort not to exceed two rehearsal absences per concert cycle, including absences for school band or orchestra.
- In the event of injuries which prevent GTCYS musicians from playing their instruments, it is still beneficial to attend rehearsals to observe and learn even if they cannot play.

Sectionals

- Because of the individualized instruction provided, students should make every effort to be present on sectional nights. Dates are listed on the orchestra schedules: see links below.

Seating Auditions (Concertino, Camerata, Concert Orchestra, Philharmonic, and Symphony):

- Because seating auditions take place on designated rehearsal nights, attendance is especially important on those evenings. See the seating policy specific to your orchestra for details regarding missed seating auditions.

How to report an absence:

Complete the online absence form as soon as you are aware of any absence. Absence forms are listed below and are also posted on the "Member Resources" section of GTCYS' orchestra webpages.

- [Philharmonia East Absence Form](#)
- [Philharmonia West Absence Form](#)
- [Sinfonia East Absence Form](#)
- [Sinfonia West Absence Form](#)
- [Concertino Absence Form](#)
- [Camerata Absence Form](#)
- [Concert Orchestra Absence Form](#)
- [Philharmonic Absence Form](#)
- [Symphony Absence Form](#)

Consequences:

- If you reach the absence limit for your concert period, you will receive a reminder from the GTCYS office informing you that you have reached the limit and are not allowed any more absences for that concert period.
- If you then exceed the excused absence limit, you will receive a notice from the GTCYS office informing you that you are now ineligible for GTCYS activities until the beginning of the next concert period. No refunds will be issued in this situation. In special circumstances, conductors may make exceptions to the attendance policy, and may require students who have exceeded their allowed absences to perform excerpts from the current concert repertoire to demonstrate their preparedness despite their absences. Please contact GTCYS Program Director Miranda Bryan at miranda@gtcys.org with questions.

Promptness:

- All musicians must be in the room and seated at least 15 minutes before the beginning of each rehearsal. During that time, musicians should set up instruments and stands, warm up, tune, and should be ready for the conductor to take the podium by the listed rehearsal/event start time.
- Three tardies or early departures will count as one absence.

What if there is bad weather? Cancellations are very rare—please assume a GTCYS activity will continue unless you hear otherwise. In the event of weather which might result in dangerous conditions, GTCYS will send an email to GTCYS families and post the notification on www.gtcys.org and GTCYS' Facebook page. Decisions regarding cancellations will be made by 3:00pm. It is parents' responsibility to check their email and GTCYS' website for an announcement.

IMPORTANT DATES TO SCHEDULE AROUND: SPRING BREAKS

Spring Breaks: GTCYS does not have a Spring Break, but we understand that many families may go on vacation during that time. Spring break absences WILL count towards students' absence total, so please plan carefully. Remember that all dress rehearsals, concert, and retreats are mandatory, and students should make every effort to be present for sectionals and seating auditions. For your convenience, we have compiled a list of Spring Break dates below. Not all schools are included; make sure to consult your school's calendar. If you will miss a GTCYS rehearsal due to Spring Break, please be sure to plan the rest of the concert period carefully so you will not exceed the allotted maximum absences.

March 4 – 8:

Roseville Area Schools, ISD 623
St. Francis School District, ISD 15
Waconia Public Schools

March 11 – 15:

Anoka-Hennepin Schools
Centennial School District, ISD 12
Mahtomedi Public Schools, ISD 832
North Branch Area Public Schools, ISD 138
North St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale School District, ISD 622
South Washington County Schools
Spring Lake Park Schools, ISD 16
St. Anthony-New Brighton School District, ISD 282
Stillwater Area Public Schools, ISD 834
White Bear Lake Area Schools, ISD 624

March 15 – 25:

Edina

March 18 – 22:

Columbia Heights Public Schools

March 22 – 29:

Jordan Public Schools, ISD 717
Monticello Public Schools
Rockford Area Schools

March 25 – 29:

Bloomington Public Schools
Brooklyn Center Schools, ISD 286
Burnsville-Eagan-Savage Schools, ISD 191
Eastern Carver County Schools, ISD 112
Forest Lake Area Schools
Hopkins Public Schools, ISD 270
Lake City Public Schools, ISD 813
Lakeville Area Public Schools, ISD 194
Maple Lake Public Schools, ISD 881
Minnetonka
Orono Public Schools, ISD 278
Osseo
Robbinsdale Area Schools
Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan Schools, ISD 196

March 29 – April 5:

St. Louis Park Public Schools

April 1 – 5:

Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose Schools
Eden Prairie Schools, ISD 272
Elk River Area School District, ISD 728
Fridley Public Schools, ISD 14
Minneapolis Public Schools
Richfield Public Schools, ISD 280
St. Paul Public Schools
Wayzata

April 19 – 22:

Medford Public Schools, ISD 763
Princeton Public Schools, ISD 477
Randolph Public Schools, ISD 195

IMPORTANT DATES TO SCHEDULE AROUND: TESTS

SAT & ACT Test Dates: Taking an SAT/ACT test is not an acceptable reason to miss a concert or dress rehearsal: GTCYS students must arrange these tests on alternate dates. The May 2019 SAT test date conflicts with GTCYS' MANDATORY Dress Rehearsal at Orchestra Hall on Saturday, May 4: **DO NOT SCHEDULE YOUR SAT test for May 4.** Plan now to avoid this conflict! Visit www.collegeboard.com for more details.

Alternate SAT Test 2018-19 Dates:

August 25, 2018
October 6, 2018
November 3, 2018
December 1, 2018
March 9, 2019
June 1, 2019

Alternate ACT 2018-19 Test Dates:

September 8, 2018
October 27, 2018
December 8, 2018
February 9, 2019
April 13, 2019
June 8, 2019

Advanced Placement Tests:

May 6-10, 2019
May 13-17, 2019

GTCYS SEATING POLICIES: 2018–19 SEASON

“Seating” is the term used to describe the process for determining where a student sits within their orchestra section. Seating is often ranked by proficiency, but GTCYS’ policies vary by orchestra for strings, woodwinds, and brass. The conductors of Philharmonia and Sinfonia East and West determine students’ seating, while our other orchestras have auditions during designated rehearsals to determine where a student sits. The conductor reserves the right to change seating at any time for the benefit of the orchestra. Dates for seating auditions will be determined and added to each orchestra’s online calendar by September 10. Auditioning is an important skill and adds to students’ improvement and preparation.

As Maestro Smith says, it is important for students and parents to understand that where a student sits has no reflection on their value as a human being, and especially on their value as a member of the orchestra. Each and every player contributes mightily to the success of the orchestra, no matter where they are sitting.

PHILHARMONIA EAST & WEST SEATING POLICY

At the beginning of the season, Philharmonia musicians will be seated according to their GTCYS audition scores. The conductor will rotate seating for each concert, to provide students the experience of playing in different parts of the section.

SINFONIA SEATING POLICY

Strings: At the beginning of the season, Sinfonia musicians will be seated according to their GTCYS audition scores, and will likely stay in those positions through the first concert. The conductor will rotate seating as much as possible to provide students the experience of sitting in different parts of the section.

Woodwinds, Brass, and Percussion: Seating will be assigned by the conductor based upon the GTCYS audition results.

CONCERTINO SEATING POLICY

Strings: At the beginning of the season, string players will be seated according to their GTCYS audition scores. Concertino has one round of chair placement auditions each semester. Two weeks before the seating audition date in the [online Concertino calendar](#), the conductor will provide selected excerpts from the repertoire, which string students must prepare. The seating audition judges, who are professional musicians, will assign a student section leader based on the seating audition results, and other players will be assigned as section players. The conductor will determine specific seating within the section based on feedback from the seating auditions as well as student progress observed in weekly rehearsals. String students will remain in these seating positions until the next seating audition.

Woodwinds, Brass, and Percussion: Seating will be assigned by the conductor based upon the GTCYS audition results.

Seating Audition Absences: If students anticipate an absence on a seating audition date, they record a video audition of the seating audition excerpts, upload to YouTube, and send the link directly to miranda@gtcys.org at least two days before the audition date. Students who miss the audition and do not send a recording on time will be placed last chair until the next audition date: No exceptions.

CAMERATA SEATING POLICY

Strings: At the beginning of the season, string players will be seated according to their GTCYS audition scores. Camerata has one round of chair placement auditions each semester. Two weeks before the seating audition date in the [online Camerata calendar](#), the conductor will provide selected excerpts from the repertoire, which string students must prepare. The judges for the seating auditions will be professional musicians from the Twin Cities community and will rank the students based on their performance of the excerpts. The conductor will not be involved in the auditions. String students will remain in these seating positions until the next seating audition.

Woodwinds, Brass, and Percussion: Seating will be assigned by the conductor based upon the GTCYS audition results.

Seating Audition Absences: If students anticipate an absence on a seating audition date, they record a video audition of the seating audition excerpts, upload to YouTube, and send the link directly to miranda@gtcys.org at least two days before the audition date. Students who miss the audition and do not send a recording on time will be placed last chair until the next audition date: No exceptions.

CONCERT ORCHESTRA SEATING POLICY

Strings: At the beginning of the season, string players will be seated according to their GTCYS audition scores. Concert Orchestra has one round of chair placement auditions each semester. Two weeks before the seating audition date in the [online Concert Orchestra calendar](#), the conductor will provide selected excerpts from the repertoire, which string students must prepare. The judges for the seating auditions will be professional musicians from the Twin Cities community and will rank the students based on their performance of the excerpts. The conductor will not be involved in the auditions. String students will remain in these seating positions until the next seating audition.

Woodwinds, Brass, and Percussion: A seating rotation for the first semester will be assigned by the conductor based upon the GTCYS audition results. Seating for the season will be assigned by the conductor, in consultation with section coaches, based on initial audition results, repertoire requirements, and student performance and development.

Seating Audition Absences: If students anticipate an absence on a seating audition date, they record a video audition of the seating audition excerpts, upload to YouTube, and send the link directly to miranda@gtcys.org at least two days before the audition date. Students who miss the audition and do not send a recording on time will be placed last chair until the next audition date: No exceptions.

PHILHARMONIC SEATING POLICY

Strings: For the first five rehearsals of each season, string players will be seated by a rotation process that enables all string players to rehearse in various parts of their section. Philharmonic has one round of chair placement auditions each semester. Two weeks before the seating audition date in the [online Philharmonic calendar](#), the conductor will provide selected excerpts from the repertoire, which string students must prepare. The judges for the seating auditions will be professional musicians from the Twin Cities community. The conductor of Philharmonic will not be involved in the auditions. The first violin and cello students will be placed in the following manner after the auditions to ensure the best possible sound for the orchestra: 1/2, 3/7, 4/8, 5/9, 6/10, 11/12, 13/14 The second violins, violas, and string bass players will be placed as follows: 1/2, 3/4, 5/6, 7/8, 9/10, 11/12, 13/14 String students will remain in these seating positions until the next seating audition.

Woodwinds, Brass, and Percussion: Seating will be assigned by the conductor based upon the GTCYS audition results.

Seating Audition Absences: If students anticipate an absence on a seating audition date, they record a video audition of the seating audition excerpts, upload to YouTube, and send the link directly to miranda@gtcys.org at least two days before the audition date. Students who miss the audition and do not send a recording on time will be placed last chair until the next audition date: No exceptions.

SYMPHONY SEATING POLICY

Strings: At the beginning of the season, string players will be seated according to their GTCYS audition scores. Symphony has one round of chair placement auditions for every concert cycle: a total of three seating auditions per season. Two weeks before the seating audition date in the [online Symphony calendar](#), Maestro will provide selected excerpts from the repertoire, which string students must prepare. The judges for the seating auditions will be professional musicians from the Twin Cities community and will rank the students based on their performance of the excerpts. The conductor will not be involved in the auditions. String students will remain in these seating positions until the next seating audition.

Woodwinds, Brass, and Percussion: Tentative wind assignments will be made at the beginning of each concert cycle. On specified wind seating audition days in the [online Symphony calendar](#), each wind, brass, and percussion student will have the opportunity to play portions of his or her assigned part for Maestro Smith before and after rehearsal at assigned times. Students should be prepared to demonstrate passages from the complete concert repertoire. Concert cycle seating will be determined based on these hearings. If a player is interested in being considered for a part other than his or her assigned part, s/he must contact the GTCYS Librarian at least two weeks before the audition to obtain a list of assigned excerpts from that part as determined by Maestro Smith.

Seating Audition Absences: If students anticipate an absence on a seating audition date, they record a video audition of the seating audition excerpts, upload to YouTube, and send the link directly to miranda@gtcys.org at least two days before the audition date. Students who miss the audition and do not send a recording on time will be placed last chair until the next audition date: No exceptions.

TUITION & SCHOLARSHIPS

Tuition, Payments, and Fees: Annual tuition varies by orchestra and ranges from \$695 – \$920 plus a \$100 retreat fee. 2018-19 season amounts are as follows.

Orchestra	Full-Year Tuition	Full-Year Retreat
Philharmonia East	\$695	\$100
Philharmonia West	\$695	\$100
Sinfonia East	\$755	\$100
Sinfonia West	\$755	\$100
Concertino	\$785	\$100
Camerata	\$800	\$100
Concert Orchestra	\$820	\$100
Philharmonic	\$860	\$100
Symphony	\$920	\$100

For families who don't prefer to pay in full, we offer an installment plan with eight monthly payments. If that doesn't suit your family's needs, email us at mail@gtcys.org – we are happy to work with you to create a suitable option.

If paying in full with a credit card, there is a \$15 processing fee. If paying in installments, there is a one-time \$30 processing fee.

GTCYS tuition only covers 50% of each student's actual cost to participate. To keep tuition affordable and provide need-based scholarships to ensure broad participation, we rely on charitable contributions from many sources including families to help sustain our programs. If you are able to contribute beyond your student's tuition, we welcome your tax-deductible contribution – every gift helps. Thank you!

Sibling Discounts: GTCYS offers a sibling tuition discount in the amount of \$70 per additional child enrolled (second sibling, third, etc.). If paying tuition in full, \$70 will be refunded to you in September. If paying with the installment plan, two \$35 deductions will be made in conjunction with your September and January payments. Discount does not apply toward retreat fees. Email us at mail@gtcys.org with any questions.

Tuition and Fees for Students Joining Mid-Year: For students starting in January, tuition is 40% of the full tuition cost listed above. The retreat fee is \$50.

Scholarships: We are committed to making our programs accessible to all interested students, regardless of ability to pay. Using a confidential application process, we provide need-based scholarships based on demonstrated financial need. Award amounts are based on a sliding scale, which takes into account household income, number of children living at home, and extraordinary circumstances. Every GTCYS family pays a portion of tuition, meaning that no award will cover 100% of tuition and fees. We offer installment plans for the balance due. [Learn more and apply online.](#)

REFUND POLICY

Any student wishing to withdraw from the program must first inform their conductor in person and then submit a written withdrawal statement to the Program Director via email and also return the student's music and folder.

- Retreat, processing, and credit card fees are non-refundable.
- No tuition refunds will be issued after the second rehearsal of a semester. A student who withdraws from the program for any reason before the second rehearsal will receive a refund for that semester, less a \$75 withdrawal fee and other non-refundable fees. If a student withdraws from the program after the second rehearsal of a semester, the family is still responsible for paying full tuition for that semester.
- Families who have paid in full for the entire year and withdraw during first semester will receive a refund for second semester, less a \$75 withdrawal fee and other non-refundable fees. Sibling discounts will be recalculated for withdrawing siblings.

Please contact the GTCYS' Program Assistant Katie Heilman at katie@gtcys.org or 651.602.6803 for payment plan details, including amounts, payment dates, and updating your information.

OTHER

School Music Programs and Private Lessons

GTCYS' programs are designed to complement – not substitute – other vital forms of music instruction. GTCYS students are strongly encouraged to participate in and serve as leaders in their school music programs where available. Given the need for individualized instruction to further musical growth, students are also strongly encouraged to take private lessons. Students encountering financial challenges are encouraged to contact GTCYS to consult on lower-priced private lessons.

Change of Personal Information

It is each student's responsibility to notify GTCYS at mail@gtcys.org if his/her contact information (email, address, phone number) changes. GTCYS' failure to contact a student due to out-of-date or incorrect information is not a valid reason for a student to miss a GTCYS activity, whether regularly scheduled or not.

Change of Private Teacher or School

Please inform us if you change private music teachers or schools. We acknowledge private teachers, school names and school music directors in our program books and would like to maintain an accurate list. Send any changes to mail@gtcys.org.

POLICY FOR CHILD PROTECTION

The Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphonies (GTCYS) acknowledges that the abuse of children can happen anywhere and that the effects of such abuse have a profound short-term and long-term impact on the victim. GTCYS seeks to ensure that young musicians who participate in any GTCYS programs may do so without fear of abuse, particularly given that a person who would prey upon children may see GTCYS as a place where he/she may have access to children or youth. In addition, any abuse or allegation of abuse may seriously compromise the ability of GTCYS to achieve our mission. Therefore, we, the Board of Directors of GTCYS, adopt the following Policy for Child Protection, effective immediately and dated this 22nd day of February 2005.

Policy for Child Protection

1. All employees and contractors of GTCYS who regularly work with children, including, but not limited to, conductors, rehearsal assistants, and regular coaches, must first meet the following qualifications: Complete an application form; Authorize a criminal background check; Review, agree to abide by, and sign this policy; and Be interviewed by the Artistic Director and/or Executive Director.
2. For GTCYS coaches used on a limited basis for whom it is not practicable to run a criminal background check before they work with children, those coaches must still complete an application form; review, agree to abide by, and sign this policy; and be interviewed by the Artistic Director and/or Executive Director. Any such coaches shall be supervised by a GTCYS representative who has met the full qualifications set forth in Section 1 above.
3. At no time will individual students be left in an individual's care behind closed doors or in an isolated and private location.
4. If minors are involved in coaching younger students, they will be supervised and will always meet with children in a rehearsal space or area equipped with a window or open door.
5. No employees or contractors of GTCYS, including, but not limited to, conductors, rehearsal assistants and coaches, shall instigate or maintain a private personal relationship with any student.
6. Individuals who work with GTCYS students will be reminded of the importance of avoiding potentially compromising situations in which an allegation of abuse could be made.
7. Any GTCYS student, parent, employee, contractor or board member who believes that a student (either themselves or another student) has been subjected to abuse of any sort while under the supervision of GTCYS should report the incident to their conductor, the Artistic Director or the Executive Director.
8. In the event that GTCYS receives an allegation of abuse of a child or youth or GTCYS becomes aware of any incident in which there is a concern for the safety or well-being of a child under the supervision of GTCYS, GTCYS will investigate and, if appropriate, involve the police. This investigation will be conducted by the Artistic Director. If the Artistic Director is accused of abuse, the President of the Board of Directors will conduct the investigation. GTCYS shall try to ensure the confidentiality of the source of any reports under this policy
9. Any employees, contractors, Board members, students and/or parents shall be free from any retaliation for making a good faith report under this policy.
10. This policy will be disseminated to all parents as part of the students' orientation packets, presented to GTCYS employees and contractors each year, and will be given to the Board of Directors at its annual meeting.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Parent Captains Each orchestra has a designated Parent Captain who works with the staff and recruits other parents to coordinate treat nights, pizza parties, and orchestra activities. Parent Captains are also valuable sources of information should you have any questions. This year's Parent Captains have yet to be determined. If you are interested in becoming a GTCYS' Parent Captain, please contact GTCYS' Program Assistant Katie Heilman at katie@gtcys.org.

Staying Informed We rely on parents to help ensure that students fulfill their GTCYS commitment, and it is critical for parents to stay informed. Because GTCYS only uses electronic forms of communication, parents must regularly check and read emails, and visit the website. *Please set your spam filter to allow emails from GTCYS' staff and info accounts.* Look for weekly emails from your conductor in addition to GTCYS' monthly News Notes for important updates. After rehearsal each week, parents should also ask students for any information that was shared.

Volunteering GTCYS greatly appreciates parent volunteers who provide valuable assistance with day-to-day tasks, special activities, and fundraising. We encourage each parent to consider at least one way in which they can volunteer for GTCYS. It is a meaningful way to be involved, meet other parents, and make a difference for students. Parents may [sign up for Volunteer Opportunities online](#) or contact GTCYS' Program Assistant Katie Heilman at katie@gtcys.org for more information.

Be a GTCYS Ambassador and spread the word Families are our best representatives! Your words of support to friends, family, and colleagues help get the word out about GTCYS. You can spread the word by inviting friends or families to attend concerts, encouraging other families with musical children to consider joining GTCYS, sharing our news on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), or [Instagram](#), and advocating the value of music education to school officials.

Help us build our audiences Many of our public concert venues have significant audience capacities. We encourage you to invite friends, family members, and music teachers to hear your student perform with GTCYS this year.

Parent Gatherings GTCYS strives to maintain open and ongoing communication with parents. Once or twice during the year, parents will have the opportunity to gather with members of GTCYS' staff and/or Board of Directors to socialize, learn more about what's going on at GTCYS, and ask questions. Details will be announced in the fall.

Consider a tax-deductible contribution. GTCYS is a non-profit organization and we rely on charitable contributions from parents, grandparents, alumni, corporations and foundations to help sustain our programs, keep tuition affordable, and provide more than \$50,000 in need-based scholarships to ensure broad access for students of all backgrounds. We have to raise more than \$500,000 each year and will encourage families' participation in annual fundraisers, but we are one of the few youth organizations that will not ask you to sell goods or raise money on GTCYS' behalf. Tax-deductible contributions of any size make a difference and can be made any time [on our website](#). Thank you!