

greater twin cities youth symphonies



## 2019 – 20 Musician Handbook

408 St. Peter Street, Suite 300

Saint Paul, MN 55102

Phone 651.602.6800 |

[mail@gtcys.org](mailto:mail@gtcys.org) | [www.gtcys.org](http://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. We are delighted and grateful to have you involved! From our youngest musicians 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. They are also designed to create a supportive culture where all students are welcomed and valued. 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 participation in GTCYS. We look forward to a wonderful year with your family!

Sincerely,

Megen Balda  
Executive Director

Mark Russell Smith  
Artistic Director

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# 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](mailto:mail@gtcys.org)

[www.gtcys.org](http://www.gtcys.org)

## GTCYS Administrative Team

Megen Balda, Executive Director	651.602.6802	<a href="mailto:megen@gtcys.org">megen@gtcys.org</a>
Miranda Bryan, Program Director	651.602.6807	<a href="mailto:miranda@gtcys.org">miranda@gtcys.org</a>
Alex Hake, Operations Manager	651.602.6805	<a href="mailto:alex@gtcys.org">alex@gtcys.org</a>
Katie Heilman, Program Assistant	651.602.6803	<a href="mailto:katie@gtcys.org">katie@gtcys.org</a>
Paul Schimming, Librarian	651.602.6804	<a href="mailto:paul@gtcys.org">paul@gtcys.org</a>
Danielle Kincs, Development Manager	651.602.6808	<a href="mailto:danielle@gtcys.org">danielle@gtcys.org</a>
Morgan May, Communications & Marketing Manager	651.602.6816	<a href="mailto:morgan@gtcys.org">morgan@gtcys.org</a>
Samuel Phillips, Harmony Manager	651.602.6806	<a href="mailto:samuel@gtcys.org">samuel@gtcys.org</a>
Naomi Schroeter, Harmony Assistant	651.602.6809	<a href="mailto:naomi@gtcys.org">naomi@gtcys.org</a>

## GTCYS Artistic Team

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

Mark Russell Smith, Artistic Director & Symphony conductor	<a href="mailto:mark@gtcys.org">mark@gtcys.org</a>
Mary Sorlie, Philharmonia East & West conductor & Harmony Director	<a href="mailto:mary@gtcys.org">mary@gtcys.org</a>
Ernesto Estigarribia, Sinfonia East conductor	<a href="mailto:ernesto@gtcys.org">ernesto@gtcys.org</a>
Laura Hebert, Sinfonia West conductor	<a href="mailto:laura@gtcys.org">laura@gtcys.org</a>
Dan Mollick, Concertino conductor	<a href="mailto:dan@gtcys.org">dan@gtcys.org</a>
Kent Musser, Camerata conductor	<a href="mailto:kent@gtcys.org">kent@gtcys.org</a>
Mark Gitch, Concert Orchestra conductor	<a href="mailto:mgitch@gtcys.org">mgitch@gtcys.org</a>
Gary Wolfman, Philharmonic conductor	<a href="mailto:gary@gtcys.org">gary@gtcys.org</a>

## 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 pages 21–22.

## 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](mailto:mail@gtcys.org). The staff is happy to talk to you.

<b>If you have questions or ideas about:</b>	<b>Talk to:</b>
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
Student and Parent concerns _____	Program Director or Executive Director
Auditions _____	Program Assistant
Fundraising ideas/events _____	Development Manager or Executive Director
Sponsorships or grants _____	Development Manager or Executive Director
Advertising _____	Communications and Marketing Manager
Touring _____	Program Director or Executive Director
Student leadership opportunities _____	Program Director
Volunteering _____	Program Assistant
Board membership _____	Executive Director
Alumni _____	Executive Director
Student & Alumni News _____	Communications and Marketing Manager

**Engage with GTCYS on Social Media!**

Stay in touch and follow along for photos, stories, videos, and other content throughout the season.

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Instagram](#)

[YouTube](#)

# ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION

## 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 more than 1,000 students ages 8-18 through nine academic-year orchestras, two summer programs, and Harmony strings instruction program.

Each year, GTCYS shares more than 30 concerts with 13,000 audience members at locations across the region including Orchestra Hall, The Ordway, and Ted Mann Concert Hall, plus free community concerts at local schools, homeless shelters, 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 June 2020, Symphony will embark on a much-anticipated tour to Southern Italy. 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 \$100,000 in need-based scholarships for tuition and private lessons and \$50,000 in need-based tour scholarships this 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](http://www.gtcys.org).

## 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](http://www.gtcys.org/about/staff).

## 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 ways for alumni to stay engaged with each other and with GTCYS.

# REHEARSALS

## What should I bring to each rehearsal?

- Music stand
- Instrument
- Music (in folder)
- Any necessary accessories (bow, strings, rosin, mute, rock stop, mouthpieces, reeds, etc.)
- Sharpened pencil with a good eraser

## Sheet Music

GTCYS members are required to bring their own 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.). **Lightly mark music with plain pencil only, and never use ink or colored pencils.** Any marks in the music other than plain pencil will result in replacement fees.

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. 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 willfully damaged. GTCYS' librarian will assess damage and determine replacement costs as necessary.

If parts are damaged during the season through normal usage (broken spine, loose pages) please contact your Rehearsal Assistant or GTCYS' librarian directly so that the part can be properly repaired or replaced if necessary.

All music distributed throughout the season is the property of GTCYS and must be returned at the end of the season – no exceptions.

## 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 guests or behavior to our staff.

## Rehearsal Schedule & Locations

Monday Rehearsals		
Philharmonia West	6:30 – 8:00pm	Edina Senior Center, 5280 Grandview Square, Edina
Sinfonia West	7:00 – 8:30pm	(new location & day of the week) Wooddale Church, 5532 Wooddale Avenue, Edina
Concertino	7:00 – 8:45pm	(new location) Richfield United Methodist Church, 5835 Lyndale Ave. S, Minneapolis
Concert Orchestra	7:00 – 9:00pm	(new location) Good Samaritan Church, 5730 Grove Street, Edina
Symphony	7:00 – 9:30pm	(new locations) Westminster Presbyterian Church 1200 S Marquette Ave, Minneapolis -AND- Ted Mann Concert Hall, University of Minnesota 2128 S 4th St, Minneapolis
Tuesday Rehearsals		
Philharmonia East	6:30 – 8:00pm	Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran, 1669 Arcade Street, Saint Paul
Camerata	7:00 – 8:45pm	Wooddale Church, 5532 Wooddale Avenue, Edina
Philharmonic	7:00 – 9:30pm	(new location) Mayflower Church, 106 E Diamond Lake Road, Minneapolis
Thursday Rehearsals		
Sinfonia East	7:00 – 8:30pm	Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran, 1669 Arcade Street, Saint Paul

### For Percussionists in All Orchestras

All percussionists must bring the following equipment to the first rehearsal of the semester. Percussion equipment for subsequent rehearsals and concerts 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 percussionists 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)

Additionally, all percussionists will need to bring their own bell set (glockenspiel) with stand for the Spring Festival. If you have questions about any of the items on this list, please ask your private teacher, school music director, or email [alex@gtcys.org](mailto:alex@gtcys.org).

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



# GETTING TO REHEARSALS

## 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 look into mass transit options for transportation to rehearsals through [Metro Transit](#).

## Directions

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

**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 and Entrance: Parking is available surrounding the Senior Center. Enter the building through the south doors.

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**PHILHARMONIA EAST: Tuesdays, 6:30 – 8:00pm (Luther Hall)**  
**SINFONIA EAST: Thursdays, 7:00 – 8:30pm (Luther Hall)**  
**Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church, 1669 Arcade Street, Saint Paul, MN 55106**  
The church is located on Arcade Street just south of Larpenteur 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 and Entrance: The church has free parking available on the south side of the church, off Idaho Avenue. Enter the building through the south doors.

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**SINFONIA WEST: Mondays, 7:00 – 8:30 pm**  
**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 50<sup>th</sup> Street Exit. Take the 50<sup>th</sup> exit and turn right (east) on to 50<sup>th</sup> 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 50<sup>th</sup> Street Exit. Take the 50<sup>th</sup> exit and turn left (east) on to 50<sup>th</sup> Street. Follow the directions from 50<sup>th</sup> 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.

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**CONCERTINO: Mondays, 7:00 – 8:45pm**

**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 Bachman's.

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 58<sup>th</sup> 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.

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**PHILHARMONIC: Tuesdays, 7:00 – 9:30pm**

**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.

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**CONCERT ORCHESTRA: Mondays, 7:00 – 9:00pm (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 and Entrance: Park in the upper (west) lot and enter through the double doors. Rehearsals are in the Fellowship Hall on the left.

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**SYMPHONY: Mondays, 7:00 – 9:30pm**

**NEW THIS YEAR:** Symphony will alternate between two rehearsal venues this year, both which will provide a high-quality rehearsal experience. Symphony's [online calendar](#) will specify where each rehearsal is located. Rather than alternating week to week, rehearsals are grouped around Symphony's concerts and retreats at Ted Mann Concert Hall at the University of Minnesota.

**Rehearsal Venue 1: Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1200 S Marquette Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55403**

I-35W Northbound: Take I-35W north. Keep left at the fork to continue on MN-65, follow signs for Downtown/I-94 W. Keep left at the fork, follow signs for 11th St/Mpls Comm and Tech College and merge onto S 11th St. Turn left onto 2nd Ave S. Turn right onto S Marquette Ave. Use the middle lane to turn left onto Alice Rainville Pl. Parking lot entrance will be on the right (underground ramp).

I-394 Eastbound: Take I-395 east. Take exit 9A for 12th Street N. Turn right onto N 12th St. Turn right onto 2nd Ave S. Turn right onto S Marquette Ave. Use the middle lane to turn left onto Alice Rainville Pl. Parking lot entrance will be on the right (underground ramp).

I-94 Westbound: Take I-94 west. Take exit 233A to merge onto S 11th St. Merge onto S 11th St. Turn left onto 2nd Ave S. Turn right onto S Marquette Ave. Use the middle lane to turn left onto Alice Rainville Pl. Parking lot entrance will be on the right (underground ramp).

Parking: GTCYS students and families are granted access to the underground parking garage at Westminster Presbyterian Church, free of charge (there will be certain nights where we are not allowed to use the parking lot due to other events). Enter the parking garage off Alice Rainville Place (13th St.) between Nicollet Mall and Marquette Avenue. Alice Rainville Place is only accessible from the south via Marquette Avenue or Nicollet Mall. There is no driving entrance to Nicollet Mall from 12th Street, and Marquette Avenue is a one-way street south of 12th. **Please note, entrance to the parking lot closes at 8pm.** After that time, cars will be able to exit, but you will not be able to enter the parking lot.

Drop-Off: There is a drop-off area off Marquette Avenue on the east side of the building.

**Rehearsal Venue 2: Ted Mann Concert Hall, 2128 S 4th St, Minneapolis, MN 55455**

Parking: There are many convenient parking options near Ferguson Hall at the University of Minnesota, West Bank, which is only a few blocks from the Interstate 35-W and Interstate 94 exits.

- [Click here for more information about directions and parking.](#)
- The closest places to park at the [21st Ave. Ramp](#) or [Lot 94](#). The average parking rate is \$1 per hour.
  - Please note that cash-only event rates will be in effect at these lots on certain evenings. View the [UMN Events Parking Calendar](#) for up to date details on where and when event rate parking will be active.

# 2019–20 GTCYS SEASON SCHEDULE

## **Young Soloists Concerto Competition Finals\*\***

Sunday, November 10 at 3pm  
Sateren Auditorium, Augsburg University,  
Minneapolis

## **Fall Festival Concerts**

Sunday, November 17

Orchestra Hall, Minneapolis

**1:00pm:** Philharmonia East, Camerata, & Symphony

**4:00pm:** Philharmonia West, Sinfonia East, Concert  
Orchestra, & Symphony

**7:00pm:** Sinfonia West, Concertino, Philharmonic, &  
Symphony

Tickets at [www.minnesotaorchestra.org/gtcys](http://www.minnesotaorchestra.org/gtcys)

## **Symphony Series Concert**

Sunday, November 24 at 2pm

Ted Mann Concert Hall, Minneapolis

Ticket details forthcoming

## **Winter Auditions**

Saturday, December 7

Mayflower Church, South Minneapolis

Visit [www.gtcys.org/auditions](http://www.gtcys.org/auditions) for details

## **Concertino & Camerata Holiday Concert\*\***

Saturday, December 7 at 2pm

Hopkins High School, Minnetonka

## **Philharmonia East & Philharmonic Holiday Concert\*\***

Sunday, December 8 at 4pm

Roseville Lutheran Church, Roseville

## **Sinfonia West Holiday Concert+**

Tuesday, December 10 at 7pm

Friendship Village, Bloomington

## **Concert Orchestra Holiday Concert+**

Friday, December 13 at 7:30pm

Union Gospel Mission, St. Paul

## **Sinfonia East Holiday Concert+**

Saturday, December 14 at 10am

Johanna Shores, Arden Hills

## **Philharmonia West Holiday Concert+**

Saturday, December 14 at 2pm

Folkestone Care Center, Wayzata

## **Symphony Concert with Philharmonia East**

Young Soloists in the Spotlight

Saturday, February 8 at 2pm

Ted Mann Concert Hall, Minneapolis

Ticket details forthcoming

## **Sinfonia East School Tour+**

Friday, February 21

Locations to be announced

## **Philharmonia East & West Day Trip+**

Saturday, February 22

Southeastern Minnesota Youth Orchestras, Rochester

## **Concertino Community Concert\*\***

Saturday, February 22 at 1:30pm

St. Matthew's Catholic Church, St. Paul

## **Concert Orchestra Family Concert\*\***

Sunday, February 23 at 5:30pm

The Loft Stage at East Ridge High School, Woodbury

## **Camerata & Harmony Concert\*\***

Saturday, February 29 at 10am

Humboldt High School, St. Paul

## **Sinfonia West & Philharmonic Concert**

Sunday, March 1 at 3pm

St. Michael's Lutheran Church, Bloomington

Ticket details forthcoming

## **Symphony Concert with Philharmonia West**

Saturday, April 11 at 2pm

Ted Mann Concert Hall, Minneapolis

Ticket details forthcoming

## **Concert Orchestra Concert**

Sunday, April 19 at 2pm

Benson Great Hall at Bethel University, Arden Hills

Ticket details forthcoming

**Sinfonia West School Tour+**

Friday, April 24  
Locations to be announced

**Camerata at Family Arts Blast\*\***

Saturday, April 25, 9am – 12:30pm  
The Ordway, St. Paul

**Sinfonia East Concert+**

Saturday, April 25 at 4pm  
Boutwell's Landing, Stillwater

**Concertino & Philharmonic Concert \*\***

Sunday, April 26 at 4pm  
St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Mahtomedi

**Spring Festival Concerts**

Sunday, May 3  
Orchestra Hall, Minneapolis

**1:00pm:** Harmony, Philharmonia East, Camerata, & Symphony

**4:00pm:** Philharmonia West, Sinfonia East, Concert Orchestra, & Symphony

**7:00pm:** Sinfonia West, Concertino, Philharmonic, & Symphony

Tickets at [www.minnesotaorchestra.org/gtcys](http://www.minnesotaorchestra.org/gtcys)

**Symphony Orchestrating Opportunities Benefit**

Sunday, May 17, Details TBD  
Orchestra Hall, Minneapolis  
Ticket details forthcoming

**2020–21 Auditions**

Spring 2020, dates TBD  
Visit [www.gtcys.org/auditions](http://www.gtcys.org/auditions) for details

**Symphony Tour Send-Off Concert**

Monday, June 8, 7:30pm  
Roseville Lutheran Church, Roseville

**Symphony Opening Plenary Performance for the League of American Orchestra's National Conference**

Wednesday, June 10 at 1pm  
Orchestra Hall, Minneapolis  
Ticket details forthcoming

**Symphony Tour to Southern Italy**

June 11 – 21

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

**+Private Concert/Event, not open to the public**

## CONCERT DETAILS

GTCYS will provide driving directions and detailed instructions before each concert.

# CONCERT TICKETS

## Festival Concert Tickets (all orchestras)

**NEW THIS YEAR:** Fall and Spring Festivals are split into **three** separate back-to-back concerts. Please read the details below carefully and look for additional ticket information and reminders by email throughout the season.

### Fall Festivals – All Orchestras

Sunday, November 17, 2019 at Orchestra Hall, Minneapolis

- Concert #1 at 1:00pm: Philharmonia East, Camerata, and Symphony
- Concert #2 at 4:00pm: Philharmonia West, Sinfonia East, Concert Orchestra, and Symphony
- Concert #3 at 7:00pm: Sinfonia West, Concertino, Philharmonic, and Symphony

### Spring Festivals – All Orchestras

Sunday, May 3, 2020 at Orchestra Hall, Minneapolis

- Concert #1 at 1:00pm: Harmony, Philharmonia East, Camerata, and Symphony
- Concert #2 at 4:00pm: Philharmonia West, Sinfonia East, Concert Orchestra, and Symphony
- Concert #3 at 7:00pm: Sinfonia West, Concertino, Philharmonic, and Symphony

### How to Purchase Festival Concert Tickets

- Fall Festival tickets will go on sale on October 4, 2019 at 10am.
- Tickets for the Spring Festivals will go on sale on March 20, 2020 at 10am.
- To purchase tickets, call 612.371.5656 or order online at [www.minnesotaorchestra.org/gtcys](http://www.minnesotaorchestra.org/gtcys)
- Prices vary by seating; All seats are reserved.
- Families with students in multiple orchestras who wish to attend two or more concerts can purchase a ticket to multiple concerts for the price of one ticket. These families will receive instructions via email about how to receive the discount.

### Symphony Concerts

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 September. All non-Symphony GTCYS students will receive one free ticket to every Symphony concert.

- Sunday, November 24, 2019 at 2:00pm
- Saturday, February 8, 2020 at 2:00pm (with Philharmonia East)
- Saturday, April 11, 2020 at 2:00pm (with Philharmonia West)

# LIVESTREAMS AND CONCERT RECORDINGS

GTCYS' Festivals and Symphony concerts will be professionally livestreamed for free on [GTCYS' YouTube channel](#). Access each livestream with this link: <https://www.youtube.com/user/GTCYS1972/live>. Some performance excerpts may be reposted and available on our YouTube channel at a later time.

Audio recordings of GTCYS Festivals and Symphony concerts are available for purchase at [www.westmarkproductions.com](http://www.westmarkproductions.com).

# CONCERT ATTIRE

Each orchestra has its own required dress code for concerts. Inappropriate attire may lead to dismissal from a concert. **NEW THIS YEAR:** This year's concert attire has changed to be more inclusive and easier for families. Because students grow out of concert clothes quickly, we encourage families to consider second-hand options. Concert memos emailed prior to every performance will indicate whether "Formal Attire" or "Family Attire" is required.

## Formal Attire for Philharmonia East & West, Sinfonia East & West, Concertino, and Camerata

All students wear white on top and black on bottom. Please note that a bowtie is no longer required.

- **Top:** Bright white long-sleeved (at least  $\frac{3}{4}$  length) button-down shirt or bright white long-sleeved blouse
- **Bottom:**
  - Floor- or ankle-length black skirt or black dress slacks (not form-fitting)
  - Black socks or tights (at least mid-calf height, no bare legs or feet)
  - Black dress shoes (no open toes or sandals)

## Formal Attire for Concert Orchestra, Philharmonic, and Symphony

All students wear ALL BLACK. Please note changes from previous seasons.

- **Top:** Long-sleeved (at least  $\frac{3}{4}$  length), black dress shirt OR floor- or ankle-length long-sleeved black dress
- **Bottom:**
  - Floor- or ankle-length black skirt OR black dress slacks (not form-fitting)
  - Black socks or tights (at least mid-calf height, no bare legs or feet)
  - Black dress shoes (no open toes or sandals)

## Family Concert Attire

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

- **Top:** Single-color long-sleeve (at least  $\frac{3}{4}$  length sleeves) shirt. Any style is satisfactory: button-down, sweater, turtle-neck, blouse, etc. No patterns, words, or logos. Avoid white or black if possible.
- **Bottom:**
  - Floor or ankle-length black skirt or black dress pants
  - Black socks or tights (at least mid-calf height, no bare legs or feet)
  - Black dress shoes (no open toes or sandals)

Please contact GTCYS' Program Director Miranda Bryan at [miranda@gtcys.org](mailto:miranda@gtcys.org) or 651.602.6807 with questions about concert attire.

## Symphony Tour Attire

Concert Attire for the 2020 International tour will be announced in Spring 2020.

# PROGRAM ACTIVITIES & EXTRA OPPORTUNITIES

**School-Year Program** This year, more than 825 beginning to advanced students ages 8 – 18 from across the region will participate in one of GTCYS' nine academic-year orchestras and Harmony strings instruction program and share over 30 concerts throughout the Twin Cities. 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 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** Each orchestra has a day-long retreat in the fall and winter with extended rehearsal time and social activities which help students to get to know each other and improve their repertoire together. This orchestral immersion experience and social enrichment is an essential element of GTCYS. The retreat fee is paid along with tuition payments. Retreats are required for all GTCYS students. [Students must confirm attendance for the retreat in advance.](#)

**Bring a Friend Night** "Bring a Friend Night" is a way for GTCYS members to introduce their friends to the GTCYS experience in a play-along setting. Each orchestra has one Bring a Friend Night in the spring. GTCYS students may bring friends who play orchestral instruments; friends may also attend a different orchestra depending on their ability and comfort level. Bring a Friend Night dates and advanced registration forms will be announced in September 2019.

**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' flagship orchestra, Symphony, and Artistic Director Mark Russell Smith. [Click here to learn more and to register to compete.](#)

- Applications due Monday, October 21: [Register here](#)
- Preliminary Round: Sunday, October 27, 2019, at Lloyd Ultan Recital Hall, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis
- Finals Round: Sunday, November 10 at 3:00pm at Sateren Auditorium, Augsburg University, Minneapolis
- Winner's performance with Symphony: Saturday, February 8, 2020, at 2:00pm, Ted Mann Concert Hall, Minneapolis

**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](mailto:katie@gtcys.org). If you have your own volunteer ideas, let us know!

**Ambassadors** (All Orchestras): Student Ambassadors are invited to share a presentation about GTCYS with their school orchestra or band in February 2020. This program is an opportunity for any GTCYS student enrolled in school orchestra or band programs to develop communication skills, demonstrate pride as an orchestral musician, and help peers understand the value of GTCYS' programs. [Sign up with the online form by January 31, 2020](#).

**Student Mentors:** Philharmonic and Symphony students can apply to serve as mentors for Philharmonia East & West, Sinfonia East & West, 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. Mentors are responsible for setting their own mentoring schedule, and they must commit to mentor at four rehearsals in the fall (September – December) and five rehearsals in the spring (January – May). [Application forms are available here and will be reviewed and accepted on an ongoing basis](#). Contact Program Director Miranda Bryan at [miranda@gtcys.org](mailto:miranda@gtcys.org) or 651.602.6807 with any questions.

**Thank-You Activities:** From time to time, members of GTCYS' orchestras will be asked to write thank-you notes to donors and/or GTCYS board members. This is an opportunity for students to learn more about giving back, while also developing their writing and interpersonal skills. In addition to writing thank-you notes, Philharmonic and Symphony members may be asked to serve as GTCYS ambassadors and speak to guests about GTCYS at concert receptions, board meetings, and/or open rehearsals.

**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 2020](#).

**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 2020](#).

**Harmony:** In fall 2016, GTCYS launched Harmony, an after-school violin instruction program for third graders at Riverview Elementary School in St. Paul's West Side neighborhood. Now entering its fourth year in 2019, Harmony will provide violin and cello instruction with third, fourth, and fifth graders three days a week before school. Designed to be highly accessible, Harmony provides small and large group instruction, instruments, performance opportunities including at Orchestra Hall, field trips, and summer activities. Harmony creates an entry point and pathway for students to continue their musical journey with GTCYS. This fall for the first time, we look forward to welcoming sixth grade Harmony alumni in Philharmonia East. From there and with continued support for lessons, instruments, and scholarships, Harmony alumni will have the opportunity to advance through GTCYS' orchestras, building valuable skills to help them succeed in school and beyond.

# THE SAINT PAUL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA PARTNERSHIP

In 2011, The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra (SPCO) and GTCYS 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:

## Performances:

- Exclusive SPCO Chamber Music performances for GTCYS students at the January 11 and 25 Winter Retreats
- GTCYS Afternoon at the SPCO: Sunday, October 20, 2019, 3:00pm: Use the Promotional Code 'gtcysnightout' to reserve two free adult tickets and up to four free student tickets. Exclusive meet and greet with SPCO musicians at 2:15pm. [Get your tickets here!](#)
- Children and students can attend any SPCO concert for free: [Learn more here](#)

## 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. This is a valuable hands-on experience to encourage music education in young children, and GTCYS highly encourages its members to participate!

- **Saturday, October 5, 2019, 9:00am-12:00pm: Start the Music Woodwinds**  
The Ordway, 345 Washington St, St Paul, MN 55102  
Volunteers will help with craft making/activities and instrument trials and will receive supervision and instruction. You do not have to play a woodwind instrument to volunteer. [Sign up here](#)
- **Saturday, December 7, 2019, 9:45am-11:30am: Start the Music Woodwinds**  
Neighborhood House, 179 Robie St E, St Paul, MN 55107  
Volunteers will help with craft making/activities and instrument trials and will receive supervision and instruction. You do not have to play a woodwind instrument to volunteer. [Sign up here](#)
- **Saturday, March 21, 2020, 10:30am-12:30pm: Xplorchestra French Horn**  
The Ordway, 345 Washington St, St Paul, MN 55102  
Volunteers will be asked to help with instrument trials and will receive supervision and instruction. You do not have to play the French Horn to volunteer. [Sign up here](#)
- **Saturday, April 25, 2020, 9:00am-12:00pm: Family Arts Blast (FAB)**  
The Ordway, 345 Washington St, St Paul, MN 55102  
Volunteers will be asked to help with instrument trials and will receive supervision and instruction. [Sign up here](#)

# EXPECTATIONS & CONDUCT

GTCYS' culture is rooted in a safe, respectful, equitable, supportive, and collaborative environment. Students: by understanding and following GTCYS' expectations, you help to create a positive experience for yourself and your fellow students and a healthy musical learning community. Please read the following carefully and inform your conductor, rehearsal assistant, or GTCYS staff of any concerns or questions. Your individual success and your orchestra's depend on your kind and respectful behavior with everyone present at GTCYS activities, including fellow orchestra members, conductors, coaches, staff, parents, volunteers, audience members, and venue staff.

## **GTCYS expects students to:**

- 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.
- Be upstanders: Intervene and tell a GTCYS conductor or Rehearsal Assistant if you witness unkind or disrespectful behavior.
- Listen and participate attentively during rehearsals.
- Keep food and drink (including gum) out of rehearsal and performance spaces. Students may eat and drink in designated areas only during rehearsal breaks.
- Remove hats at GTCYS' indoor activities (exceptions made for religious and medical reasons)

**Bullying and Harassment:** GTCYS strictly prohibits bullying or harassment of any kind. GTCYS will investigate, respond to, remediate, and discipline 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 Director 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.

**Positive ambassadorship:** GTCYS members represent the GTCYS community at all times, whether at rehearsals, retreats, concerts, at special events, or on tour. 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 without refund. Families should plan carefully for vacations, college visits, extra-curricular activities, sports, etc. Concerts, dress rehearsals, and retreats are required: See the Attendance Policy for more information about the consequences of missing required events.

**Preparation:** Coming to rehearsals prepared is essential for you 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. Home practice is to learn your own part and rehearsals are for learning everyone else's part. As a general guideline, devote at least 10 minutes of dedicated practice to your GTCYS music daily. Conductors will refer to this concept as the "GTCYS 10" throughout the season.

**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 without refund.

**Instrument Liability:** Each GTCYS student/family is responsible for their 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: Contact [katie@gtcys.org](mailto:katie@gtcys.org) with questions about payments.

**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.

# 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' orchestras' educational and musical success. **Remember, consistent rehearsal attendance benefits not only individual students, but also the entire 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](#)

**Students are allowed two rehearsal absences per concert cycle:**

- **2 ABSENCES** from the first rehearsal in September through your orchestra's December concert
- **2 ABSENCES** from the first rehearsal in January through your orchestra's February/March concert
- **2 ABSENCES** from the first rehearsal after your orchestra's February/March concert to the May 3 Spring Festival Concert
- Please note that these absences are NOT allowed for retreats, dress rehearsals, or concerts.

**Special circumstances:**

- In the event that a school band or orchestra concert conflicts with a GTCYS activity, students should prioritize their school ensemble commitment. Students must carefully cross-check their school ensemble calendars with their GTCYS calendars and **report any conflicts to GTCYS at the beginning of each semester. (September and January)** Although absences from GTCYS for school band or orchestra concerts will not count toward the total if reported at the beginning of the semester, students should still make every effort not to exceed two rehearsal absences per concert cycle.
- 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. Sectional dates will be added to orchestra calendars by September 2019.

**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. Absences not related to illness or emergency must be reported at the beginning of the semester whenever possible. 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 for exceeding rehearsal absence limit:

- If you reach the absence limit for your concert period, you will receive an email 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](mailto:miranda@gtcys.org) with questions.

#### Required dates: Dress Rehearsals, Concerts, and Retreats:

- **Dress rehearsals are required.** Missing a dress rehearsal may result in not being permitted to perform in the concert and suspension or dismissal from GTCYS without refund.
- **Attendance at every concert is required.** 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.
- **The fall and winter retreats are required,** and the retreat fee is non-refundable. Missing a retreat may lead to suspension or dismissal from GTCYS without refund.

#### Promptness:

- To ensure adequate time for set-up, warm-up, and tuning, all students must be present and seated at least 15 minutes before the beginning of each rehearsal.
- GTCYS' conductors will begin rehearsal promptly by the listed 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 unsafe conditions, GTCYS will email families and post the notification on [www.gtcys.org](http://www.gtcys.org). Decisions regarding cancellations will be made by noon. It is parents' responsibility to check their email and GTCYS' website for an announcement.

Students' health and safety is always our highest priority at GTCYS. We are aware that families drive from all over the Twin Cities (and beyond) to reach their students' weekly rehearsals, so if you determine that travel to rehearsal from your home will not be safe given current weather conditions, please complete an absence form in advance of rehearsal. Instead of selecting "Absence 1" or "Absence 2," please select "other" and list "weather" for weather-related absences to be excused.

# 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, concerts, and retreats are required, 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 plan the rest of the concert period carefully so you will not exceed the allotted maximum absences.

**March 2 – 6:**  
Waconia Public Schools

**March 9 – 13:**  
Centennial School District, ISD 12  
Medford Public Schools, ISD 763  
North Branch Area Public Schools, ISD 138  
North St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale School District, ISD 622  
Roseville Area Schools, ISD 623  
South Washington County Schools, ISD 833  
Spring Lake Park Schools, ISD 16  
St. Francis School District, ISD 15  
Stillwater Area Public Schools, ISD 834  
White Bear Lake Area Schools, ISD 624

**March 16 – 20:**  
Anoka Hennepin Schools  
Mahtomedi Public Schools, ISD 832  
St. Anthony-New Brighton School District, ISD 282

**March 20 – 27:**  
Lakeville Area Public Schools, ISD 194

**March 23 – 27:**  
Burnsville-Eagan-Savage Schools, ISD 191  
Bloomington Public Schools  
Eastern Carver County Schools, ISD 112  
Edina Public Schools  
Forest Lake Area Schools  
Fridley Public Schools, ISD 14  
Jordan Public Schools, ISD 717  
Maple Lake Public Schools, ISD 881  
Monticello Public Schools  
Orono Public Schools, ISD 278  
Robbinsdale Area Schools  
Rockford Area Schools  
Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan, ISD 196

**March 26 – April 3:**  
Wayzata

**March 30 – April 3:**  
Brooklyn Center Schools, ISD 286  
Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose Schools  
Eden Prairie Schools, ISD 272  
Hopkins Public Schools, ISD 270  
Minneapolis Public Schools  
Minnetonka Public Schools  
Richfield Public Schools, ISD 280  
St. Louis Park Public Schools  
St. Paul Public Schools

**April 6 – 10:**  
Osseo Public Schools

**April 9 – 10:**  
Columbia Heights Public Schools

**April 9 – 13:**  
Elk River Area School District, ISD 728  
Lake City Public Schools, ISD 813

**April 10 – 13:**  
Princeton Public Schools, ISD 477  
Randolph Public Schools, ISD 195

# IMPORTANT DATES TO SCHEDULE AROUND: TESTS

## SAT & ACT Test Dates:

The May 2020 SAT test date conflicts with GTCYS' required Dress Rehearsal at Orchestra Hall on Saturday, May 2:  
**DO NOT SCHEDULE YOUR SAT test for May 2.**

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. Plan now to avoid this conflict! Visit [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) for more details.

## Alternate SAT Test 2019-20 Dates:

August 24, 2019  
October 5, 2019  
November 2, 2019  
December 7, 2019  
March 14, 2020  
June 6, 2020

## Alternate ACT 2019-20 Test Dates:

September 14, 2019  
October 26, 2019  
December 14, 2019  
February 8, 2020  
April 4, 2020  
June 13, 2020

## Advanced Placement Tests:

May 4-8, 2020  
May 11-15, 2020



# GTCYS SEATING POLICIES & PART ASSIGNMENTS

“Seating” is the term used to describe the process for determining where a student sits within their orchestra section and sometimes determines part assignments. Where and how students are seated varies by GTCYS orchestra and instrument. Some string sections rotate or use the GTCYS audition as a basis for determining where students sit. Other orchestras have “seating auditions” where string students prepare and play excerpts from their orchestra’s repertoire for outside judges who assess their playing (details below).

Ultimately, seating charts are developed to create a positive learning experience for students and an artistically strong orchestra. Students are typically spread throughout the orchestra to create an ensemble where all students can learn from each other and help create a positive musical learning environment. The conductor reserves the right to change seating at any time and for any reason.

It is important to remember that orchestra is a group experience of musicians (rather than soloists) who each play a part in the greater whole. As Maestro Smith says, every GTCYS musician contributes mightily to the success of the orchestra, no matter where they are sitting.

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## PHILHARMONIA EAST & WEST AND SINFONIA EAST & WEST (No seating auditions in these levels)

### Strings:

- At the beginning of the season, string players will be seated by the conductor based on the GTCYS audition.
- Seating may be adjusted throughout the year. Factors including student behavior and attendance may be taken into consideration.
- It is possible that some violinists may switch between first and second parts during the year.

### Woodwinds, Brass, and Percussion:

- Initial seating and part assignments will be determined by the conductor based on the GTCYS audition.
- Seating and part assignments may be adjusted by the conductor throughout the year based on students’ progress and repertoire requirements. Factors such as behavior and attendance may be taken into consideration.

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## CONCERTINO, CAMERATA, CONCERT ORCHESTRA, PHILHARMONIC, AND SYMPHONY

These orchestras conduct a periodic seating audition for string players which occur on a regular rehearsal night. Auditioning is an important skill and adds to students’ improvement and preparation in GTCYS’ more advanced orchestras. Specific audition dates will be added to each orchestra’s calendar in early September.

### Strings:

- At the beginning of the season, string players will be seated according to their GTCYS audition scores.
- Two weeks before each seating audition date (listed on the orchestra’s online calendar), the conductor will announce selected excerpts from the repertoire for string students to prepare.
- Students will perform these excerpts on the specified seating audition night in a one-on-one setting for an external judge who is a professional musician. See below for instructions on how to send a video-recorded seating audition in advance if you must be absent on a seating audition date.
- Seating audition judges will assess each student and provide brief written feedback which the students will receive at the next rehearsal.
- The conductor will use the judges’ assessments to determine specific seating. Other factors including student behavior and attendance may be taken into consideration.
- It is possible that some violinists may switch between first and second parts during the year.

**Woodwinds, Brass, and Percussion:**

- Initial seating and part assignments will be determined by the conductor based on the GTCYS audition.
- Seating and part assignments may be adjusted by the conductor throughout the year based on students' progress and repertoire requirements. Factors such as behavior and attendance and attendance may be taken into consideration.
- Woodwind, brass, and percussion seating auditions may be scheduled throughout the season at the conductor's discretion.

**Absences from String Seating Auditions:** If students anticipate an absence on a seating audition date, they must record a video audition of the seating audition excerpts, upload to YouTube, and send the link directly to [miranda@gtcys.org](mailto:miranda@gtcys.org) at least two days before the audition date. Students must introduce themselves and introduce each excerpt in the video. Students who miss the audition and do not send a recording on time and in the correct format will not have the opportunity to be assessed again until the next audition.

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# TUITION & SCHOLARSHIPS

**Tuition, Payments, and Fees:** Annual tuition varies by orchestra as follows:

Orchestra	Full-Year Tuition	Full-Year Retreat
Philharmonia East	\$705	\$100
Philharmonia West	\$705	\$100
Sinfonia East	\$765	\$100
Sinfonia West	\$765	\$100
Concertino	\$815	\$100
Camerata	\$830	\$100
Concert Orchestra	\$865	\$100
Philharmonic	\$900	\$100
Symphony	\$995	\$100

An eight-month installment plan is available for families who don't prefer to pay in full. If that plan doesn't suit your family's needs, email GTCYS' Program Assistant Katie Heilman at [katie@gtcys.org](mailto:katie@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.

**Sibling Discounts:** GTCYS offers a sibling tuition discount in the amount of \$75 per additional child enrolled (second sibling, third, etc.). If paying tuition in full, \$75 will be refunded to you in September. If paying with the installment plan, two \$37.50 deductions will be made in conjunction with your September and January payments. Discount does not apply toward retreat fees. Email [katie@gtcys.org](mailto:katie@gtcys.org) with any questions.

**Tuition and Fees for Students Joining Mid-Year:** For students starting in January, tuition is 60% of the full tuition cost listed above. The retreat fee is \$50.

**Need-based Scholarships:** We are committed to making our programs accessible to all interested students, regardless of financial circumstances. 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 and deduct fees. [Learn more and apply online.](#)

**Donations:** 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!

# REFUND POLICY

Any student wishing to withdraw from the program must complete all three of the following steps:

1. Inform their conductor in person
2. Submit a written withdrawal statement to the Program Director via email
3. Return the student's music and folder to GTCYS

Withdrawal details:

- 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. Tuition and sibling discounts will be recalculated for withdrawing siblings.

Please contact the GTCYS' Program Assistant Katie Heilman at [katie@gtcys.org](mailto: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.

### Sponsored Lessons

Using a confidential application process, GTCYS provides regular private lessons with a high-quality private instructor for a select group of students who have qualified for [need-based tuition scholarships](#). Contact [miranda@gtcys.org](mailto:miranda@gtcys.org) with questions.

### Change of Personal Information

It is each student's responsibility to contact [katie@gtcys.org](mailto:katie@gtcys.org) if their contact information (email, address, phone number) changes. GTCYS' inability 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 recognize private teachers, school names and school music directors in our program books and would like to maintain an accurate list. Send any changes to [katie@gtcys.org](mailto:katie@gtcys.org).

# POLICY FOR CHILD PROTECTION

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.

## 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 etiquette at GTCYS events:** Parents are welcome to observe regular rehearsals if space allows. To create a productive rehearsal environment, it is best if parents abstain from interacting with their child or the conductor while the rehearsal is underway. Retreats and dress rehearsals are closed to parents and the public with the exception of volunteers who have signed up to help in advance.

**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. Parent Captains are determined throughout the summer. If you are interested in serving as a GTCYS' Parent Captain, please contact GTCYS' Program Assistant Katie Heilman at [katie@gtcys.org](mailto: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 subscribe to their child's online GTCYS calendar, 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 volunteers, both GTCYS parents and members of the larger community, who provide valuable assistance at concerts, retreats, special events, with day-to-day tasks, special activities, and fundraising. We encourage all GTCYS parents 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](mailto: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 expand our audience** 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 and guardians. 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.

**Your support matters.** As a non-profit organization, GTCYS relies on charitable contributions to create meaningful experiences for all of our young musicians. Unlike other extracurriculars, we will never ask students to sell goods or participate in fundraisers. Because tuition only covers about half the actual cost of participation, going above and beyond with a gift directly supports your own child's experience. Contributions also support our free community concerts and provide more than \$100,000 in need-based scholarships so that all GTCYS students are able to experience the lifelong benefits of a GTCYS education. To make a tax-deductible gift, visit [www.gtcys.org/donate](http://www.gtcys.org/donate). Thank you!