Harmony
Creating stronger learners, building confidence, and opening new doors through music

2018-19 Family Handbook
Riverview Elementary School
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WELCOME!

Dear Harmony Families,
Welcome to the Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphonies (GTCYS)! We are delighted that you have chosen to play the violin in the third year of GTCYS’ partnership with Riverview Elementary. Harmony provides students with access to high quality instrumental instruction and performance opportunities that complement their academic experience and boost their personal development. With seven teaching artists this year, it promises to be a wonderful year of music learning, performance, friendships, new opportunities, and fun!

As a Harmony musician, you are part of a much larger family of young musicians – more than 700 students are also GTCYS members this year! You will have the opportunity to meet and play with some of them later this season.

Being a Harmony musician will be rewarding and enjoyable. It is also an honor and a responsibility. By enrolling in this program, students and parents are electing to play your part.” Please read this handbook to understand the program expectations which are designed to help students achieve their individual and collective best.

We look forward to an exciting journey with you this year! Should you have any questions along the way, please contact any of us using the contact information below.

Sincerely,

Megen Balda
Executive Director
ABOUT HARMONY

Harmony is a program of the Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphonies (GTCYS) in partnership with Riverview Elementary School. Third, fourth, and fifth grade students have the opportunity to learn how to play the violin in an afterschool group setting with their peers. Participants will also attend concert outings, and perform for their families and the broader community.

Rehearsals will take place during the year on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 3:30 – 4:45pm at Riverview except on days that Riverview is closed.

Vision
The goal of this program is to provide Riverview students with access to high quality instrumental music instruction and performance opportunities to complement their academic experience and aid in their personal development. We are committed to excellence and access using a holistic approach to engage students, their families, and the community. As students progress musically, they will have the opportunity to join GTCYS’ other orchestras. As Harmony grows, so will our vision for what we can achieve together!

Harmony Values
Joy • Tenacity • Positivity • Inclusion • Kindness • Courage • Effort

Who’s Who

Gracie Miller
Community Engagement Coordinator
gracie@gtcys.org or 651-602-6806
¡Yo hablo español!

Naomi Schroeter
VISTA Harmony Coordinator
naomi@gtcys.org or 651-6026-6809
¡Yo hablo español!

Mary Sorlie
3rd Grade Teaching Artist
Mary@gtcys.org

Barbara Flooding
4th Grade Teaching Artist
Barbara@gtcys.org

Isabel Damann
5th grade Teaching Artist
COMMUNICATION
Communication between school staff, Harmony program staff, students, and their families is essential. *If you are running late to pick up your child, or have another transportation issue, please call the school office directly at (651) 293-8665, to let the office staff know when you are coming.*

We use the following forms of communication:

- **Website for Harmony families:** [https://www.gtcys.org/harmony](https://www.gtcys.org/harmony): check here for updates and information on upcoming events and how to request concert tickets, etc.
- **Email/Phone:** We use email and phone to contact students and families directly. Email is the best way to contact staff and Teaching Artists outside of rehearsal, but Gracie and Naomi can also be contacted via phone. Staff contact information can be found on page 4 of this handbook.
- **NEW!** “Remind” text messaging app will be used to text important reminders and information. Details will be shared at the orientation session.
- **Flyers:** we will occasionally send home printed flyers with important information. Check your child’s backpack!
- **Sheet Music:** Each student has a workbook or sheet music that he/she will bring home and to each rehearsal session. Teachers may include notes for parents in the workbook.

Questions:
For questions about program details including rehearsals, performances, transportation, concert attire, and materials fee, contact Community Engagement Coordinator Gracie Miller at gracie@gtcys.org or 651-602-6806, or Naomi at naomi@gtcys.org or 651-602-6809.

For questions about your child’s progress or your instrument, please contact our teaching artists (contact info listed on page 4, or come to the end of a rehearsal to speak in person. Information about students’ progress will also be shared at parent-teacher conferences in December and March.

INSTRUMENTS

**Instrument Loan**
Riverview provides violins to Harmony musicians on a loan basis. Each student/family is responsible for taking care of the instrument and returning it to Riverview at the end of the school year. Families assume full financial responsibility for replacing the instrument and accessories if they are lost, stolen, altered, or damaged beyond repair. Musicians are expected to take care of their instruments and respect other musicians’ instruments and property (see below).

**Instrument Care**
I love my violin! How should I take care of it?
- Never let anyone else touch it.
- Treat your instrument like it is your baby.
• When you are finished playing, put the violin and the bow in the case properly.
  o Remember to take the sponge off first, and close the case.
  o Always loosen the hair of the bow before you put it away. Don’t touch the hair of the bow. It is real horsehair and the oils from your fingers can hurt the hair.
• Don’t touch the tuning pegs at the top of the violin! You could accidentally break one of your strings. Your teachers will tune the violin.
• Avoid extreme temperature and humidity. Don’t let it get wet. Don’t leave it anywhere too warm, like a hot car in the summer or by a heater in the winter. Don’t leave it anywhere too cold, either!

Instrument Repairs
If your instrument is in need of supplies or repair, bring the instrument and any parts to your next rehearsal and notify one of the teaching artists. All repairs are done by Saint Paul Public Schools. Do not try to repair the instrument yourself (even if the bridge falls off) as this may result in more damage and financial repercussions. Accidents happen and we will work with families to fix the instrument.

MATERIALS FEE
A $20 materials fee is required for each musician for the year. The actual cost to GTCYS is nearly $3,000 per student. The fee contributes to costs for instruments and equipment, sheet music, and transportation. This fee is collected at the beginning of the year and is non-refundable. If this is not possible or you have questions, please contact Naomi Schroeter or Gracie Miller.
MUSICIAN EXPECTATIONS

By understanding and following GTCYS’ guidelines, you help create a positive, productive experience for you and your fellow students. Please read the following carefully and let your teacher know of any questions.

- Be respectful of your fellow students, teachers, and staff.
- Be kind to one another.
- Take care of your instrument.
- Be prepared for rehearsals.
- Do not touch or write on anything not belonging to you.
- Keep food and beverages out of rehearsal and performance spaces.
- Put away cell phones and other electronic devices during all program activities.

Probation and Dismissal

A musician may be put on probation or dismissed from the program at the discretion of the teaching artists for reasons including, but not limited to: excessive absences, lack of musical preparedness, and behavior/conduct.

We believe in taking a break when you need one. If a student is doing something that is distracting or hurtful to others, they will be given a warning and reminded what to do. If it happens again, they will need to take a break. If it happens a 3rd time, a staff member will talk to the child about what is going on, and decide if further intervention is needed such as a behavior contract meeting.

Behavior Contracts

A musician who is struggling to behave respectfully to their teachers, fellow students, themselves, or the room may be asked to complete a behavior contract. Depending on the situation, parents will be invited to join. This is an opportunity for the student to consider what they could do instead of the behavior that isn’t working, away from the situation that caused the behavior.

Practicing IS Homework

Daily practice time is essential for student success. We want you to think of practicing the violin as your homework, the same as math or reading. Without daily practice it is easy to fall behind and feel frustrated during the group rehearsals. Commit to 10 minutes a day of homework (practice!). Here are some practice tips (more will be shared during the year):

- Find a quiet place without distractions
- Practice slowly and then increase speed
Parents: Help Your Musician Practice!
Regardless of musical background, a parent or guardian’s encouragement will impact a child’s progress. You’ll be amazed at your student’s progress if you follow these tips!

- **Facilitate regular practice:** provide a daily time and quiet place where your child can practice without distractions or interruptions.
- **Encourage small performances:** In addition to Harmony Program performances, encourage your child to play for you, your family, and friends at home or family gatherings.
- **Get Involved!** Enthusiastically attend all Harmony Program events to show your support. You are welcome to attend a rehearsal to see what your child is learning and encourage those concepts at home.
- **Talk to the Teaching Artists:** Ask Teaching Artists about your child’s progress after rehearsals.
- **Teach Commitment:** Teach your child to be present and punctual by helping him or her to be on time to Harmony program activities.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY**
Consistent attendance at the after school rehearsals and performances is essential to students’ success. Because enrollment is limited, it is necessary for students and families to commit to the entire year of instruction. Please carefully review the schedule of activities to plan ahead. All participants are expected to attend rehearsals and mandatory performances. **Remember, consistent rehearsal attendance benefits not only you, but also the whole group.** We understand that life happens and we will work with families if challenges arise.

Students are allowed up to 4 absences per trimester (Fall, Winter, Spring). If your child is gone more than 4 times in a trimester we’ll contact you if the program still makes sense for your family. Each time a student forgets their instrument it counts as half an absence.

**Report an Absence**
If you are going to miss a rehearsal, notify your teacher in advance, or in the event of a last minute absence, leave a voicemail for Gracie Miller at 651-602-6806 or Naomi Schroeter at 651-602-6809.
REHEARSALS
What should I bring to each rehearsal?
At the beginning of the year, we will provide the following materials which students should bring to each session:
• Violin
• Sheet music / notebook
• Accessories (bow, strings, rosin)
• A sharpened pencil with a good eraser

Where do rehearsals take place?
• Rehearsals take place from 3:30 – 4:45pm in:
  o 3rd Grade: Room 3301
  o 4th Grade: Room 3309
  o 5th Grade: Room 3201
• Students will eat a snack in the cafeteria at 3:00pm and be escorted to the 3:30pm rehearsal.

Check-out process
Students are done 4:45pm. The safety of our musicians is our highest concern. Parents and guardians who pick up their child must sign them out in the school office. Students who walk must sign themselves out with the time of their departure. Youth who bus home do not sign out.

CONCERTS
Concert dates are outlined on the schedule on pages 9-10. Additional details will be shared about performances throughout the year.

Transportation
GTCYS will provide transportation for students and families to and from designated performances and concert outings that take place outside of the West Side.

Concert Attire
• Performances at Riverview: Students will wear school uniforms or Harmony t-shirts.
• Spring Festival performance at Orchestra Hall in May: Students will wear formal concert attire (long black pants or skirts, white shirts, black socks and dress shoes, and black bow ties for the boys). GTCYS can provide concert attire if needed. Please contact Gracie Miller in the spring to coordinate.

Tickets
GTCYS will provide families with free tickets to concerts at which their students are performing. Details forthcoming. The actual ticket cost per ticket is $10 - $24, but we will provide complimentary tickets to Harmony families for the concert.
Family Involvement
Families are important partners in their musician’s participation and development through GTCYS’ programs. Musicians’ success is the result of dedicated families who help their children understand the importance of practicing, being on time, and contributing to the ensemble. All rehearsals are open for families to attend. Families are encouraged to visit rehearsals to take part in their musician’s musical journey.

Rehearsal Guest Etiquette
To ensure musicians have a positive and productive learning space, guests must respect the learning that takes place. A distraction-free environment is essential to help musicians progress. If you are observing, please listen quietly. If you need to use your phone or have a conversation, step outside the room and return when you are done.

Volunteering
We welcome the help of family members! Assisting at special events, encouraging community members to attend concerts, and providing expertise are great ways to share your time and knowledge. Contact Gracie Miller or Naomi Schroeter for more information and opportunities.
## HARMONY SCHEDULE

All activities take place at Riverview Elementary on the EDL schedule unless otherwise noted.

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<td>MON</td>
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**SAT**  March 2  10:00am Harmony concert with Camerata orchestra at Humboldt High School

### Spring

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6:30-8:00 field trip to watch Philharmonia East orchestra rehearsal at Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church

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<td>THUR</td>
<td>May 2</td>
<td>3:30 - 4:45 Rehearsal</td>
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<tr>
<td>SUN</td>
<td>May 5</td>
<td>4:30-6:30 Harmony concert at GTCYS’ Spring Festival Concert at Orchestra Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>TUES</td>
<td>May 7</td>
<td>3:30 - 4:45 Rehearsal</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEDS</td>
<td>May 8</td>
<td>3:30 - 4:45 Rehearsal</td>
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<tr>
<td>THUR</td>
<td>May 9</td>
<td>3:30 - 4:45 Rehearsal</td>
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<tr>
<td>MON</td>
<td>May 13</td>
<td>6:30-9:30 Harmony Concert with GTCYS at Orchestra Hall</td>
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**7:00pm Harmony Concert with the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra at Humboldt High School**
Optional Concert Outings
Students and family members are strongly encouraged to attend the following orchestra concerts as audience members. These are wonderful ways to be inspired by other musicians and enjoy time with your family!

The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra (SPCO)
2018-19 Concert Series at Humboldt High School
Tickets for Riverview families are free! To reserve, call 651.291.1144, or visit the website and use code 55107. https://content.thespco.org/events/season-tickets/2018-19/humboldt-high-school-auditorium/

Friday November 30 at 7 p.m.
The SPCO plays Handel’s Water Music with Richard Egarr

Saturday March 23 at 10 a.m.
The SPCO’s Start the Music series for children

Sunday March 28 at 7 p.m.
The SPCO plays Bach’s Double Violin Concerto

Friday May 17 at 7 p.m.
The SPCO plays Haydn’s Surprise Symphony with Jonathon Cohen

Visit www.gtcys.org/calendar for a wide array of other GTCYS concerts which you are invited to attend.

ABOUT GTCYS
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 eight academic-year orchestras and two summer programs. New in fall 2018, GTCYS’ ninth orchestra, Sinfonia East, will serve students in the east metro to meet the increased demand. In 2016, GTCYS launched a new 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, plus 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 $85,000 in need-based scholarships for tuition and private lessons 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.
GTCYS’ Youth Orchestras

The Harmony Program trains beginning musicians so that they are able to appreciate orchestral music, learn valuable skills, and possibly join one of GTCYS’ academic-year orchestras in the future. These orchestras, which rehearse weekly and perform multiple times during the year, serve string, woodwind, brass, and percussion students who audition each year and are placed by ability in orchestras that range from beginning to pre-professional:

- Philharmonia East/West: entry-level strings-only orchestras for students with 2-4 years’ experience
- Sinfonia East/West: full orchestra for string, woodwind, brass, and percussion students with 2-5 years’ experience
- Concertino: an intermediate orchestra for students with 2-7 years’ experience
- Camerata: an intermediate orchestra for students with 3-7 years’ experience
- Concert: an advanced orchestra for students with 4-8 years’ experience
- Philharmonic: a highly advanced orchestra for students with 5-10 years’ experience
- Symphony: a pre-professional orchestra for students with 5-12 years’ experience

GTCYS also offers summer programs, including a string orchestra camp for students age 8-12 in St. Paul. Harmony students will have the opportunity to audition for this camp in the spring.
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. GTCYS’ Board of Directors of GTCYS adopt the following Policy for Child Protection, effective immediately and dated this 22nd day of February 2005.

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.
2018–19 EVENT 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 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 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**
Featuring Somali Dance Troupe
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

continued on the next page
Camerata & Concert Orchestra Concert
Saturday, April 13 at 1pm
Benson Great Hall at Bethel University, Arden Hills
Ticketed event: details forthcoming

Philharmonic Concert **
Sunday, April 14 at 7pm
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
St. Paul Music Academy, St. Paul
Oneka Elementary School, Hugo

Symphony 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.minnesotaoorchestra.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 pub