

THE CLEVELAND ORCHESTRA YOUTH ORCHESTRA

SUPPORTED BY THE GEOFFREY AND SARAH GUND ENDOWMENT

25

26

SEASON

AUDITIONS



Application form available at
clevelandorchestrayouthorchestra.com/auditions
Application deadline: **Friday, March 21**

NEW: Ohio ACE program can provide funds for participating in COYO (see page 5).

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The Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra (COYO) was created to provide talented young musicians with a pre-professional orchestral training experience of the highest artistic standard. Youth Orchestra musicians are selected through competitive auditions held each May. Membership is open to middle school and high school students who study privately, participate in their school music program and are prepared to commit to an ambitious rehearsal and concert schedule. Your commitment includes weekly rehearsals, coachings with Cleveland Orchestra members, and the COYO retreat; some need-based assistance is available. Tuition is \$450.

The Youth Orchestra season has historically included three Severance Music Center subscription performances, community concerts, and a side by side rehearsal with The Cleveland Orchestra. Annual concerto auditions offer members the opportunity to appear as soloist with the Youth Orchestra.

The Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra is privileged to make its home in historic Severance Music Center.

Members of the Youth Orchestra enjoy a very close artistic relationship with members of The Cleveland Orchestra. The coaching staff includes principal and assistant principal players who share their wisdom and experience with their younger counterparts. COYO's music director is a member of The Cleveland Orchestra conducting staff, appointed by the music director of The Cleveland Orchestra.

Cleveland Orchestra guest artists are invited to work with the Youth Orchestra. Those who have previously given master classes include Emanuel Ax, Yuri Bashmet,

Joshua Bell, Steven Isserlis, Yo-Yo Ma, Midori, Gil Shaham, Alisa Weilerstein and Nicolaj Znaider. Conductors John Adams, Marin Alsop, Pierre Boulez, James Conlon, Sir Andrew Davis, Christoph von Dohnányi, Giancarlo Guerrero, Oliver Knussen, Jahja Ling, Kurt Masur, Kent Nagano, Michael Tilson Thomas, and Franz Welser-Möst also have worked with the ensemble.



Brochure photography by Roger Mastroianni

A Brief History

The Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra, one of northern Ohio's premiere musical destinations for serious young musicians, will be celebrating its 38th season during the 2023-24 season. Since its inception in 1986, the Youth Orchestra has performed more than 200 concerts and has provided a musical home to more than 1,500 of the region's most talented young musicians. The scope and quality of the COYO experience is impressive!

In 1998, the Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra participated in the second National Youth Orchestra Festival sponsored by the American Symphony Orchestra League. The festival brought together 450 of the country's most accomplished young instrumentalists to study with esteemed artist faculty. Only five youth orchestras were chosen through a rigorous audition process from a national pool of applicants.

COYO receives annual support from the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation, Dominion Energy and individual donors. Major support is provided by The Geoffrey and Sarah Gund Endowment. Endowment support for touring comes from the Vinney Fund. Other endowment support comes from the estate of Christin Gitlin Miles.

In 1984, Jahja Ling was engaged as associate conductor of The Cleveland Orchestra. With three years as founding director of the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra, and a vision for Cleveland, he established the Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra in 1986 and served as its music director for six seasons. Mr. Ling subsequently served as The Cleveland Orchestra's resident conductor and as Blossom Festival director.

Gareth Morrell, former Cleveland Orchestra director of choruses, became music director of COYO in 1993 and also was the founding director of the Cleveland Orchestra Youth Chorus. Mr. Morrell is currently assistant conductor for the Metropolitan Opera. Upon his departure in 1998, Harry Davidson conducted the remainder of the 1997-98 season.

Steven Smith, became music director

of COYO in 1998. At Carnegie Hall's invitation, Mr. Smith led the Youth Orchestra in a "Family Concert" in 2001. Mr. Smith is currently the Music Director of the Cleveland Chamber Symphony.

In 2003, James Gaffigan became the Youth Orchestra's fourth music director. He is the newly appointed General Music Director of Komische Oper Berlin, and is in his second season as Music Director of the Palau de les Arts Reina Sofia in Valencia. He also serves as Principal Guest Conductor of both the Netherlands Radio Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Trondheim Symphony Orchestra & Opera.

Jayce Ogren began his three year tenure as COYO music director in the fall of 2006 and led COYO on its first tour to the Boston, Massachusetts area in June 2009. He is currently music director of the Monterey Symphony in Carmel-by-the-Sea, California.

James Feddeck served as the COYO music director from September 2009 to June 2013. Mr. Feddeck led the orchestra on their first international tour to Europe in June 2012 with performances in Prague, Vienna and Salzburg. He is Principal Conductor of Orchestra i Pomeriggi Musicali in Milan, Italy.

Brett Mitchell began his 4 year tenure as COYO music director in the fall of 2013. He led the youth orchestra on its second international trip to China in June 2015. He currently serves as Artistic Director & Conductor of the Sunriver Music Festival.

Vinay Parameswaran served as music director of COYO from 2017-2022 and led the ensemble's third international tour in June 2019 to Europe with concerts in Linz, Vienna, Bratislava, and Budapest.

Daniel Reith served as music director of COYO from 2022-2025. He was appointed music director of COYO at the start of the 2022-23 season. He was the 2019 winner of Opptakt, Talent Norway's program for fostering young conductors. Mr. Reith completed his Masters in conducting at the Norwegian Academy of Music.

Youth Orchestra Coaches

Sectional rehearsals and coaching sessions with members of The Cleveland Orchestra are part of weekly Youth Orchestra rehearsals. See website for bios (www.clevelandorchestrayouthorchestra.com).



STEVEN TAVANI
Assistant Concertmaster



KATHLEEN COLLINS
Second Violin



STANLEY KONOPKA
Assistant Principal Viola



MARK JACKOBS
Viola



DAVID ALAN HARRELL
Cello



MARK ATHERTON
Bass



MARY KAY FINK
*Principal Piccolo/
Flute*



FRANK ROSENWEIN
Principal Oboe



JEFFREY RATHBUN
Assistant Principal Oboe



ROBERT WOOLFREY
Clarinet



PHIL AUSTIN
*Bassoon/
Contrabassoon*



MEGHAN GUEGOLD HEGE
Horn



**SHACHAR
ISRAEL**

*Assistant Principal
Trombone*



**YASUHITO
SUGIYAMA**

Principal Tuba



**DONALD
MILLER**

Percussion



**TRINA
STRUBLE**

Principal Harp



2025-26 Season Schedule

Weekly rehearsals are on either Saturday or Sunday from 1:30-5:30 PM beginning in late August/ early September.

Typical Schedule:

1:30-2:45 PM – Coaching session with members of The Cleveland Orchestra or sectional rehearsal with the music director

3:00-5:30 PM – Full orchestra rehearsal

Participation fees are \$450, which include weekly rehearsals, coachings with Cleveland Orchestra members, and the weekend COYO retreat; need-based assistance is available.

COYO is a serious commitment and all youth orchestra members are expected to participate fully. A strict attendance policy is maintained. All Youth Orchestra members must try to attend every event.

Questions? Please contact the COYO Office at: (216) 456-8410 or at coyo@clevelandorchestra.com.

Audition Requirements

Auditions are open to all middle school and high school instrumental music students who study privately, actively participate in their school music program and are prepared to commit to the Youth Orchestra’s rigorous rehearsal and concert schedule. Auditions will be scheduled at 10-minute intervals and are heard by the Youth Orchestra music director and/or members of The Cleveland Orchestra. Specific instrumental requirements appear on the following pages and are available on the Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra’s website at clevelandorchestrayouthorchestra.com.

- **NO** accompaniment, please
- Orchestral excerpts can be downloaded at clevelandorchestrayouthorchestra.com
- Auditions are private – a waiting area is provided for family members
- Written recommendations from your current private teacher and current school music director are required for your audition

Before an audition will be scheduled, all application materials must be received.

- Application form (please apply online at clevelandorchestrayouthorchestra.com)
- Recommendation letters
- \$40 audition fee
- Recommendation letters and audition fee can be submitted online or mailed separately to: COYO; Severance Music Center, 11001 Euclid Ave, OH 44106

Youth orchestras, school music programs and private teachers share the common goal of training the next generation of musicians, audience members and arts supporters. To that end, the Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra **requires** its members to actively participate in their school music program.

The Ohio Afterschool Child Enrichment (ACE) educational savings account program provides funds for students and families to use on various enrichment and educational activities like COYO. Visit aceohio.org to learn more.



Dates: Auditions will take place in May 2025.

Times: Applicants are notified of their audition date and time by email following the audition application deadline.

Place: Severance Music Center 11001 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, OH 44106

Fee: \$40 (non-refundable)

Deadline: Application materials due Friday, March 21, 2025.

Copies of the orchestral excerpts can be printed from the Youth Orchestra's website at clevelandorchestrayouthorchestra.com/auditions.

Listen to recordings of the orchestral works before you practice the excerpts.

Instruments listed as "Alternate Position" mean that the current members are planning to return for the 2025-26 season. If they do not return, are unable to finish the season, or if we require additional musicians for a specific piece, the alternate will be called upon to play with the Youth Orchestra.

VIOLIN

1. One Solo of your choice

The following list suggests works, from which you might choose one piece to prepare. *These are not required pieces*; they are intended to help establish a minimum technical level for those who plan to audition. You may perform other pieces (works for unaccompanied violin, sonatas or concerti — please no baroque concerti) that are at least technically *comparable* to those listed below:

Rodé: Caprice No. 6 OR
Caprice No. 9

Mozart: Concerto No. 3 in G,
1st movement OR Concerto
No. 4 in D, 1st movement

Viotti: Concerto No. 23 in G,
1st movement

2. Prepare **ALL** of the following orchestral excerpts from one of the following pieces:

- a. Mozart: Symphony No. 39
- 2nd movement – Andante con moto (from 16 before letter A to 9 before letter A)
 - 4th movement, Allegro (opening up to bar 104)

- b. Brahms: Symphony No. 4
- 1st movement, Allegro non troppo (to letter B)
 - 3rd movement, Allegro giocoso (to letter B)

- c. Mendelssohn: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*
- Scherzo (to letter E)

- d. Brahms: Symphony No. 1
- 1st movement, beginning to the Allegro (bars 1 to 29)

3. Three octave major and minor scales – demonstrate spiccato and legato strokes

4. Possible sight reading from orchestral repertoire

VIOLA

1. Solo of your choice (sonata, suite or concerto), one fast and one slow movement

2. Prepare the following orchestral excerpts:

- a. Mozart: Symphony No. 35
- 4th movement (beginning to letter A)

- b. Berlioz: Roman Carnival
- 1st movement (two after Rehearsal 1 to eight after Rehearsal 3)

3. Three-octave major and minor scales

- a. Legato: four notes to a bow; six notes to a bow

- b. Spiccato: two strokes per note; one stroke per note

4. Arpeggios

5. Possible sight reading from orchestral repertoire

CELLO

1. Solo of your choice (one fast and one slow movement)
2. Prepare the following orchestral excerpts:
 - a. Dvořák: Symphony No. 8
 - 1st movement (measures 1-18)
 - 3rd movement (letter D to E)
3. Three-octave major and melodic minor scales
 - a. Legato: three notes slurred to a bow
 - b. Spiccato: four repeated 16th notes per pitch
4. Possible sight reading from orchestral repertoire
 - b. Brahms: Symphony No. 4
 - 4th movement (thirteen after D to eight before E)
 - c. Mendelssohn: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*
 - Scherzo (pickup to one before P to 21 after Q)

BASS

1. Two contrasting solo pieces or movements of your choice
2. Prepare the following orchestral excerpts:
 - a. Beethoven: Symphony No. 5
 - 3rd movement, Trio (measures 140-244)
 - b. Dvořák: Symphony No. 8
 - 4th movement (letter O to letter P)
3. Possible sight reading from orchestral repertoire

FLUTE

- (Please indicate if you play piccolo)
1. Solo of your choice (one fast and one slow movement)
 2. Prepare the following orchestral excerpts:
 - a. Debussy: *Afternoon of a Faun*
 - Solo from Number 2 to Number 3

PICCOLO

- add the following to numbers 1, 2, 3, and 4 above:
5. Solo of your choice

OBOE

- (Please indicate if you play English Horn)
1. Solo of your choice (one fast and one slow movement)
 2. Prepare the following orchestral excerpts:
 - a. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 4
 - 2nd movement solo
 - b. Beethoven: Symphony No. 6
 - 3rd movement
 - c. Brahms: Symphony No. 2
 - 3rd movement solo
 3. Major and minor scales: fast, slow, legato, staccato
 4. Possible sight reading from orchestral repertoire

ENGLISH HORN

add the following to numbers 1, 2, 3, and 4 above:

5. Solo of your choice
(one fast and one slow movement)
6. Prepare the following orchestral excerpts:
 - a. Dvořák: "New World" Symphony
 - 2nd movement solo
 - b. Ravel: Rapsodie espagnole
 - 2nd movement solos

CLARINET

(Please indicate if you play bass and/or E^b clarinet)

1. Solo of your choice
(one fast and one slow movement)
2. Please prepare the following orchestral excerpts:
 - a. Brahms: Symphony No. 3
 - 2nd movement (measures 1-22)
 - b. Mendelssohn: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*
 - Scherzo (Opening to letter B)
 - c. Kodály: *Dances of Galánta*
 - Opening cadenza (measures 31-65)
3. F and G major scales slowly, legato, and 3 octaves

BASSOON

(Please indicate if you play contrabassoon)

1. Solo of your choice
(one fast and one slow movement)
2. Prepare the following orchestral excerpts:
 - a. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 4
 - 2nd movement solo (at end)

- b. Dukas: *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*
 - Figure 7 – Figure 8
- c. Prokofiev: *Peter and the Wolf*
(Grandfather)

3. Major and minor scales: fast, slow, legato, staccato
4. Possible sight reading from orchestral repertoire

CONTRABASSOON

add the following to numbers 1, 2, 3, and 4 above:

5. Solo from concerto of your choice
(one fast and one slow movement)
6. Prepare the following orchestral excerpts:
 - a. Brahms: Symphony No. 1
 - 1st movement solos
 - 4th movement solos
 - b. Brahms: Symphony No. 4
 - 3rd movement solos
 - 4th movement solos

HORN

1. Solo of your choice
(one fast and one slow movement)
2. Prepare the following orchestral excerpts:
 - a. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 5
 - 2nd movement solo
 - b. Beethoven: Symphony No. 6
 - 3rd movement
3. Major and minor scales: fast, slow, legato, staccato
4. Ability to transpose in different keys (C, B^b, G, E, E^b, D)
5. Possible sight reading from orchestral repertoire

TRUMPET

1. Solo of your choice (one fast technical movement and one slow lyrical movement) or two separate solos or etudes (one fast technical and one slow lyrical)
2. Prepare the following orchestral excerpts:
 - a. Beethoven: Leonore Overture No. 3, Op. 72 offstage solo
 - b. Mussorgsky: Promenade from *Pictures at an Exhibition*
 - opening to rehearsal #2
 - c. Respighi: *Pines of Rome*
 - 2nd movement (off-stage solo)
 - d. Rossini: William Tell Overture (Allegro Vivace Fanfare)
3. Major and minor scales: fast, slow, legato, staccato
4. Possible sight reading from orchestral repertoire

Those musicians selected as members of COYO will be expected to learn transposition skills, as repertoire dictates.

TROMBONE

1. Solo of your choice (one fast and one slow movement)
2. Prepare 3 out of 4 of the following orchestral excerpts:
 - a. Mozart: *Requiem* solo
 - b. Rossini: *La Gazza Ladra*
 - Rehearsal No. 3 - rehearsal No. 4
 - Rehearsal No. 7 - rehearsal No. 8
 - c. Wagner: *Ride of the Valkyries* 3rd movement:
 - pickup to rehearsal No. 3 – 8 bars after

- pickup to rehearsal No. 5 – 3 bars after rehearsal No. 6
- d. Hindemith: *Symphonic Metamorphosis*
 - Letter H – 9 bars after I
 - Letter Q – 11 bars after Q
 - Letter S – Letter T
3. Two-octave major and minor scales: fast, slow, legato, staccato
 4. Be able to read tenor, bass and alto clef
 5. Possible sight reading from orchestral repertoire

BASS TROMBONE

List available upon request.

TUBA

1. Solo of your choice (one fast and one slow movement)
2. Prepare **all 4** of the following orchestral excerpts:
 - a. Wagner: Overture from *Die Meistersinger* (Letter J to letter L)
 - b. Berlioz: Hungarian March from *The Damnation of Faust* (Rehearsal no. 4 to 4 after rehearsal no. 5)
 - c. Wagner: *Ride of the Valkyries*
 - d. Prokofiev: *Symphony No. 5* (Rehearsal no. 3 to 6 after rehearsal no. 5)
3. Major and minor scales: fast, slow, legato, staccato
4. Possible sight reading from orchestral repertoire

TIMPANI/PERCUSSION

All instruments are provided. The marimba provided is four octaves. You are expected to bring the necessary sticks and mallets for the various instruments. You are also welcome to bring your own snare drum.

TIMPANI:

The timpani will be arranged in German system set-up, drums going small to large, from left to right.

1. Prepare the following:
 - a. Hochrainer: *Etuden for Timpani, Volume 1*
 - Etude 48

SNARE DRUM:

1. Prepare the following:
 - a. Cirone: *Portraits in Rhythm*
 - Etude 6

MARIMBA:

1. Prepare the following:
 - a. Goldenberg: *Modern School for Xylophone, Marimba, Vibraphone*
 - Etude V

KEYBOARD INSTRUMENTS

Alternate Position - Not Available for 2025-26

1. ing from orchestral repertoire

HARP

1. Solo of your choice
2. Orchestral excerpts:
 - a. Debussy: *Afternoon of a Faun*
 - b. Rimsky-Korsakov: *Capriccio espagnol*
 - cadenza
 - c. Shostakovich: *Symphony No. 5*



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Youth Orchestra members share their thoughts about their experience:

“COYO is one of the greatest opportunities around; it allows you to dive into collaborative work, learn standards of personal preparation and responsibility, and explore wonderful repertoire while you’re doing so.”

– Serena Shapard, *violin*

“COYO has been the most intensive ensemble I’ve played in, and held the most professional and determined group of young musicians I have had the opportunity to meet and make music with. It ultimately solidified my decision to pursue music in college and as a career. I strongly recommend this group of musicians to anyone who is determined to play intense and truly enjoyable music, and craves a true pre-professional experience.”

– Colin Henley, *viola*

“COYO is the best experience I have had with orchestral playing. The musicianship, talent and overall attitude of the group is unparalleled to any group I have played in. I will always remember the times I have spent with this group and I am extremely happy to have gotten the chance to play with them.”

– Paul Bissler, *horn*

“There’s truly nothing to dislike with your COYO experience. You take part in rehearsals with talented colleagues, world-class conductors, and receive weekly instruction from members of the world’s greatest orchestra. The experiences one has are priceless. You won’t find a better youth orchestra in this hemisphere!”

– David Burnett, *tuba*



Thanks to the orchestral training offered through COYO, former members have become members of...

The Cleveland Orchestra
Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra
Beethoven Orchester Bonn
Buffalo Philharmonic
Calgary Philharmonic (Canada)
California Symphony
Charlotte Symphony Orchestra
Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra
Detroit Symphony Orchestra
Fort Worth Symphony
Houston Grand Opera
Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra
Knoxville Symphony
Los Angeles Philharmonic
Marin Symphony Orchestra
Memphis Symphony Orchestra
Metropolitan Opera Orchestra
Oregon Symphony
ProMusica Chamber Orchestra
Reading Symphony Orchestra
San Francisco Symphony
Sarasota Orchestra
Seattle Symphony Orchestra
South Bend Symphony Orchestra
Vancouver Symphony
Vancouver Symphony (Canada)
Victoria Symphony (Canada)
Westchester Philharmonic