



# **Student Handbook**

## **2009 – 2010**

**Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra and Chorus  
Student Handbook  
2009-2010**

A letter from the Director:  
Dr. Michael Alexander

Dear Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra and Chorus Community,

It is truly a pleasure embarking on the fourth season of the Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra and Chorus program. It is amazing to consider what we have achieved together in three short years. The trajectory we now follow is a direct result of having terrific, dedicated students, supportive teachers in the community, and a first rate artistic and administrative staff. As a member of GYSO&C, you are part of the largest youth orchestra program in the southeast. Moreover, you are part of a Cobb Symphony Orchestra family which to date encompasses over 500 jazz, choral, and orchestral musicians.

As a musician, what makes GYSO&C so exciting for me is its noble and important mission: We encourage people to love the arts. One of my favorite quotes comes from Igor Stravinsky, who rightly stated, “The trouble with music appreciation in general is that people are taught to have too much respect for music; they should love it instead.” Leonard Bernstein underscored this statement during one of his *Young People’s Concerts* when he said, “A great teacher is one who can light a spark in you, the spark that sets you on fire with enthusiasm for music...That’s where real knowledge comes from – from the desire to know.” And it is with these ideals that the GYSO&C program is realized. There is a place for each student to learn and express him or herself musically. All you have to do is bring your passion for music!

I invite you to share with us in the joy of making music. There are so many amazing things happening from new commissions, fantastic guest artists, unique programs, to the strongest talent level in the ensembles to date. Our aim is to challenge you musically, and we ask you to join us in the continual effort for artistic excellence. It has been this spirit that brought us to this point, and it will continue to be a trademark of our program. Please feel free to contact me at any point if you have any questions or concerns. I look forward to working with you all and seeing the amazing growth that happens throughout the year.

Best,  
Michael Alexander  
Music Director Cobb Symphony Orchestra  
Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra and Chorus

## **Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra and Chorus**

### **History**

Founded in 2006, the Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra and Chorus is already the largest youth orchestra program in the southeast. The Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra and Chorus program encompasses two full orchestras, two string orchestras, two wind ensembles, a jazz ensemble, a percussion ensemble, a chamber music program and two youth choruses.

Gifted and talented musicians from all across Georgia, ranging in age from elementary to high school, are selected through a competitive audition process. Students admitted into the program experience musical development in a nurturing and supportive environment while also being expected to perform at the highest levels. Each ensemble is led by a professional in its respective field, and presents a full season of concerts every year.

The Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra and Chorus (GYSO&C) was founded on the idea that students should have the opportunity to create a lifelong partnership with the arts. Young men and women graduate from the GYSO&C program not only as excellent performers individually, but with a love and appreciation for their art. GYSO&C strives to give students a comprehensive music experience, a philosophy that permeates all of its activities. True artistry and passion is created through the desire to share one's knowledge and gifts with others as well as the ability to grow independent from formal guidance.

### **Mission**

The Mission of the Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra and Chorus is to inspire young people to discover their full potential through creativity and performance, to build and develop discipline and spirit to accomplish their dream. Further, we endeavor to provide artistic opportunities for all people and to enhance the quality of our community's life.

The Values of the Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra and Chorus include:

- A commitment to the highest possible artistic standards
- A feeling of community which values and respects diversity
- A collaboration with many adult volunteers who work together for the common good and generously donate their time and talents for the Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra and Chorus

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## **Administration**

Brian Hermanson, Executive Director  
[bhermanson@cobbsymphony.org](mailto:bhermanson@cobbsymphony.org)  
770.429.7015

Susan Stensland, Director of Special Operations  
[sstensland@cobbsymphony.org](mailto:sstensland@cobbsymphony.org)  
770.429.7016

John Concklin, Creative Director  
[jconcklin@cobbsymphony.org](mailto:jconcklin@cobbsymphony.org)  
770.429.7016

## **Artists**

Dr. Michael Alexander, Music Director  
[malexander@cobbsymphony.org](mailto:malexander@cobbsymphony.org)

Peter Lemonds, Conductor of Philharmonia  
[plemonds@cobbsymphony.org](mailto:plemonds@cobbsymphony.org)

Ashley Scott, Conductor of Camerata and Sinfonia  
[ascott@cobbsymphony.org](mailto:ascott@cobbsymphony.org)

Stephen Meyer, Conductor of Philharmonia Winds and Camerata Winds  
[smeyer@cobbsymphony.org](mailto:smeyer@cobbsymphony.org)

John Lawless, Conductor of Percussion Ensemble  
[jlawless@cobbsymphony.org](mailto:jlawless@cobbsymphony.org)

Sam Skelton, Conductor of Jazz Ensemble  
[sskelton@cobbsymphony.org](mailto:sskelton@cobbsymphony.org)

Alison Mann, Conductor of Choruses  
[amann@cobbsymphony.org](mailto:amann@cobbsymphony.org)

John Young Shik Concklin, Associate Conductor  
[jconcklin@cobbsymphony.org](mailto:jconcklin@cobbsymphony.org)



**Michael Alexander** enters his sixth season as Music Director of the Cobb Symphony Orchestra. Since being appointed, the CSO has experienced exponential growth under his experienced leadership. A versatile conductor, Mr. Alexander has served as Music Director of both the Madison Savoyards Opera Company and the Green Bay Youth Symphony, as well as on faculties at Ripon College, University of Wisconsin-Madison, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, the Maud Powell Music Festival, and the Wisconsin Youth Symphony Orchestra.

Sought after as a guest conductor as well, Mr. Alexander has performed across the United States, Europe, and Australia - with the Maikop and Novgorod Symphony Orchestras of Russia, the Bacau Philharmonic in Romania, the Central Wisconsin Symphony Orchestra, and at the Catania Music Festival.

A fervent music educator, Dr. Alexander began his career as Director of Orchestras at Verona High school in Madison, Wisconsin and has since been appointed to the position of Director of Orchestras at Kennesaw State University in 2004. He has contributed numerous articles to the Teaching Music Through Performance book series, and takes an active role in music programs in the schools throughout the Metro Atlanta area most recently leading the Cobb Honor Orchestra in 2007.

Mr. Alexander completed his Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of Wisconsin-Madison under the tutelage of David E. Becker, and received a Bachelor and Master of Arts Degree from the University of Georgia. Mr. Alexander currently resides in Kennesaw with his wife Allyson, sons Jacob and Elijah, and Cleo the Cat.



**Peter Lemonds** is currently Co-Director of Orchestras at Duluth High School where he has served as chairman of the Fine Arts Department. In addition, he has served as the Georgia Music Educator's District 13 Orchestra chairman and is currently high school lead teacher for Orchestra programs in the Gwinnett County Public Schools.

He has had a varied career as a performing cellist, conductor, and educator, performing numerous concerts as a soloist and chamber musician in the United States, England, France, Italy, Austria, Germany, Switzerland, Mexico and Korea. He was an assistant professor of music at the University of Southern Mississippi, and served on the faculty of the Sewanee Summer Music Center. He has directed the orchestra program for the Georgia Governor's Honors Program and has taught at the Paideia School, the Lovett School, Wheeler High School, East Cobb Middle School, North Gwinnett High School and Duluth Middle School.

He was a finalist in the Dealy Awards Competition and a winner of the Alpha Delta Kappa International Cello Competition. Dr. Lemonds has performed with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and the Atlanta Opera, and has appeared with numerous guest artists, including Sarah Brightman, Smokey Robinson, Rod Stewart, Al Jarreau, Bob Hope, Bernadette Peters, Page and Plant of Led Zeppelin, and Dionne Warwick. He has recorded "Georgia On My Mind" with Ray Charles for Georgia Public Television.

He holds a Master of Music degree from Louisiana State University and a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of the South, Sewanee. He received a Ford Foundation Fellowship for doctoral study at the Conservatory of Music at the University of Missouri, where he completed his dissertation, *The Carl Flesch Violin Scale System: An Edition for Cello*, and was awarded the Doctor of Musical Arts degree. Dr. Lemonds is a member of the Georgia Music Educators Association, American String Teachers Association, American Federation of Musicians, National School Orchestra Association, and Georgia Association of Educators. His orchestras have been selected three times to perform at the Georgia Music Educators Convention in Savannah, Georgia, and twice at the National Orchestra Festival.



**Ashley Scott** is the Director of the Sinfonia and Camerata ensembles with the Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra and Chorus. Originally, from Atlanta, Georgia, Ashley received her Master of Music in Orchestral Conducting from Florida State University where she studied with Dr. Alexander Jimenez. While at FSU, Ashley served as orchestra librarian and assistant conductor in the university orchestral program. This gave her the opportunity to perform works from Beethoven to Mozart to Lutoslawski with the University Philharmonia and University Symphony.

Ashley completed her Bachelor of Music in Viola Performance with Dr. Kathryn Steely at Baylor University. A partnership between conductor Stephen Heyde in the Baylor School of Music and the Honors Program allowed her to study conducting while an undergraduate. As a final project for the Honors Program, she had the unique opportunity to be the first student to lead a full symphony concert with the Baylor Symphony Orchestra.

An active performer, teacher and string chamber music coach, Ashley divided her time during the summer of 2006 between a tour of Costa Rica with the XVI Credomatic International Music Festival of Costa Rica and serving as a chamber music coach and viola teacher at Credo Chamber Music Camp. Credo is a summer program for advanced string players at Oberlin Conservatory, led by Peter Slowik. Ashley currently lives near Atlanta with her husband, percussionist Dave Cochran Scott.



**Stephen Meyer** is currently in his third year as the Associate Director of Bands at Harrison High School in Kennesaw, Georgia. He conducts the Symphonic Band as well as assists with the nationally ranked Wind Ensemble and Marching Band. Originally from Cleveland, Ohio, Stephen recently graduated magna cum laude from the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University with a Bachelor of Music Education degree. During his time there, he served for two years as drum major of the Indiana University Marching Hundred, studied French horn with current Canadian Brass member Jeff Nelsen and completed the graduate wind conducting cognate under the tutelage of Dr. Scott Weiss and Dr. Brian Doyle. He has been awarded the Kappa Kappa Psi North Central District Young Conductor Award and was a finalist for the Herman B Wells Distinguished Senior Award. Stephen has served as principal horn for the National Festival Orchestra at Carnegie Hall, the CBDNA Regional Intercollegiate Band, and the Indiana Intercollegiate Band and is also an active arranger and editor for both concert and marching bands.



**John Lawless** became Director of Percussion Studies at Kennesaw State University in 2004. Principal Timpanist of the Atlanta Opera since 1979, Mr. Lawless was appointed as Principal Timpanist with the Chattanooga Symphony and Opera Orchestra in 1986. Since 1978, Mr. Lawless has performed and recorded as an extra with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra while maintaining a thriving freelance career as studio and pit percussionist.

A founding member of the Atlanta Percussion Trio, Mr. Lawless performs more than 600 school concerts a year for audiences totaling 300,000 annually. In 2004 the Atlanta Percussion Trio performed as concerto soloists with the Columbus Symphony Orchestra in “The Glory and the Grandeur” by Russell Peck.

A graduate of Georgia State University, Mr. Lawless’ teachers include Tom Float, Jack Bell, Cloyd Duff, Paul Yancich, Bill Wilder, and Mark Yancich. Mr. Lawless’ previous faculty appointments include those at Georgia State University, Clark Atlanta University, and West Georgia State University.



**Sam Skelton**, a native of Conyers, Georgia, has been active on the Atlanta music scene for well over a decade. Mr. Skelton graduated summa cum laude from Georgia State University and the private studio of Tony Carere with a degree in Jazz Studies. During his course of study at GSU, Sam was a Montgomery Music Scholar and a two-time fellowship recipient to the Aspen Music Festival. He continued his saxophone studies with Kenneth Radnofsky at Boston University in 1991.

As a woodwind doubler, Skelton is well versed in any genre of music. His grasp of saxophone, clarinet and flute has enabled him to remain very busy in live performance as well as in the studio.

Sam has performed and/or soloed with The London Symphony Orchestra, The Atlanta Symphony, The Atlanta Pops, The Peachtree Pops, The Atlanta Ballet Orchestra and The Cobb Symphony Orchestra as well as numerous local high school and civic ensembles. World Premieres include James Oliverio's *Children of A Common Mother*, Lee Johnson's *Ora Pro Mi: Concerto for Winds Soloist* (clarinet, flute and soprano saxophone) and *Seaside Symphony* (clarinet and soprano saxophone soloist). Sam also played the premier recording of *Ora Pro Mi* and *Seaside Symphony* with the London Symphony Orchestra.

As a sideman on over 120 compact discs, Sam remains very active in the studio and can be heard on recordings by such artists as Grammy nominee Howard Tate, Matchbox 20, The Gap Band and The Ohio Players. Television and radio jingles include The Weather Channel, The Travel Channel, Ford, The Cartoon Network, CNN, Nature's Own, Popeye's, Papa John's and Turner South. Television appearances include *In the Heat of the Night*, *Savannah* and *Sinbad's Summer Jam II* on HBO.

Sam is currently Director of Jazz Studies and Lecturer in Saxophone at Kennesaw State University. He is also Artist-in-Residence at The University Of Georgia for the Jazz Department. Sam served as Professor of Saxophone at Georgia State University from 1991 to 2004 and was Jazz Ensemble Director at Georgia Tech from 2002-2004. He served as Visiting Professor of Saxophone at Furman University for the 2001-02 academic year. Professional associations include Georgia Music Educators Association, Georgia Association of Jazz Educators, International Association of Jazz Educators, National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences (voting member) and the American Federation of Musicians.



**Alison Mann** teaches coursework in Choral Methods, Foundations of Music Education, Choral Conducting, and Vocal Pedagogy for Ensemble Singing at Kennesaw State University. Mann also supervises student teachers and serves as Conductor of the KSU Women's Ensemble.

A native of Florida, Mann taught in the Orlando public schools as director of choral activities at William R. Boone High School and was also the assistant conductor of the Orlando Chorale. While in Orlando, choirs and soloists under her direction received top honors at the district and state levels.

Mann received her bachelor's and master's degrees in music education from Florida State University, and her doctoral degree in music education from the University of Oregon. While in Oregon, Mann served as the Oregon state ACDA Multicultural Repertoire and Standards Chair. Her professional affiliations include the American Choral Directors Association, Music Educators National Conference, Georgia Music Educators Association, National Collegiate Choral Organization and the International Society for Music Education. Her research has been presented at the state, regional, and international levels. Dr. Mann is an active conductor, clinician, adjudicator and researcher.



John Concklin begins his second year as Creative Director with the Cobb Symphony where his duties range from serving as general manager and conductor with the Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra and Chorus to assisting in the development and implementation of the education and outreach aspects of the organization. He recently completed his tenure as Conducting Fellow at Yale University where he maintained a serious dedication to new music through his position of Principal Conductor of the New Music New Haven Ensemble while also performing standard repertoire with the Yale Philharmonia and Sinfonietta ensembles. With the latter, he performed Beethoven's Second and Fourth Symphonies among other works. In addition, he collaborated with violist Jesse Levine on Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante. A fervent supporter of the arts in public schools, Mr. Concklin is spent time in many of the Greater New Haven schools in a program entitled *Music and Art*, which he also presented at the Connecticut Music Educators Association convention due to its success. On short notice, he also led a highly acclaimed Young Person's Concert with the New Britain Symphony. During the summer, Mr. Concklin annually serves as a faculty member at the McAlester Institute in Oklahoma.

Mr. Concklin studied conducting, viola, and piano at the Blair School of Music at Vanderbilt University and won the Alexander Heard Prize for excellence in performance. He most recently studied under David Zinman at the American Academy of Conducting at the Aspen Music Festival. He has been a finalist for both a New World Symphony Fellowship and Music Director of the Young Musicians Foundation Debut Orchestra. Other teachers have included Shinik Hahm, Toshiyuki Shimada, and Robin Fountain.

## **PARENTS**

The Parents Association mission is a commitment to the advancement of the Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra and Chorus through facilitation of its projects and goals, support of its musicians, and collaboration with its directors and administration.

The Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra and Chorus depends on the donation of time and other intangible support from parents. Ranging from advising administration on matters concerning students and parents, assisting with the coordination and execution of organization activities, developing the growth of the program throughout the community, to arranging for food and beverage to be present at the rehearsals, GYSO&C asks each family for assistance in the wide variety of its students needs.

## **REHEARSAL VENUES**

The Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra and Chorus will utilize three rehearsal venues for the 2009 – 2010 season. All performances of GYSO&C will take place at Kennesaw State University, unless specifically designated otherwise.

**Symphony Orchestra, Philharmonia, Philharmonia Winds, and the Percussion Ensemble** will rehearse at Kennesaw State University.

**Camerata, Sinfonia, Camerata Winds, and the Jazz Ensemble** will rehearse at the Murray Arts Center at the Mount Paran Christian School.

**GYSO Chorus** will rehearse at First United Methodist Church close to Marietta Square.

## **Driving Directions**

### **Kennesaw State University**

#### **From I-75:**

Take I-75 to exit #271, Chastain Road (if coming from I-75 North, turn right; if coming from I-75 South, turn left). Once on Chastain, proceed into the right lane and make a right onto Frey Road (Shell Gas Station on Right). At the second light on Frey Road, turn left onto Campus Loop Road. Proceed to the traffic circle at the top of the hill. Once on the traffic circle, make your third right and the Bobbie Bailey Building will be directly in front of you. Please park in the lot directly in front of that building.

#### **From I-575:**

Take exit #3, Chastain Road (if you are coming from the North, turn right; if coming from the South, turn left). Once on Chastain Road, proceed over I-75 until turning right onto Frey Road. At the second light on Frey Road, turn left onto Campus Loop Road. Proceed to the traffic circle at the top of the hill. Once on the traffic circle, make your third right and the Bobbie

Bailey Building will be directly in front of you. Please park in the lot directly in front of that building.

### **Murray Arts Center**

From I-75, exit to Barrett Parkway Exit #269 (if you are coming from the North, turn right; if coming from the South, turn left). Once on Barrett Parkway, proceed about three miles until making a right onto Stilesboro Road. Once on Stilesboro, make your first right into the Mount Paran Christian School campus. The Murray Arts Center is the first building on your right.

### **First United Methodist Church**

From I-75, take the North Marietta Parkway Exit #265 (if you are coming from the North, turn right; if coming from the South, turn left). Once on North Marietta Parkway, proceed past US 41 (Cobb Parkway), Fairground Street, Cherokee Street, Church Street, and then Polk Street. Once passing through the Polk Street Intersection, First United Methodist Church will be on your right.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

### **Obligations**

GYSO is dedicated to educating a diverse group of musicians. Membership within the GYSO is for the entire season, from the first rehearsal in August through the final concert in May. Musicians are expected to remain active and committed for the entire season.

### **Auditions**

General auditions for GYSO ensembles are held in the spring.

Auditions last 5 minutes and are private. Placement is based on four factors:

- Tone quality
- Technique
- Musicianship
- Listening skills/aural acuity

### **School Participation**

Participation in school music organizations is required, provided one exists.

## **School Conflicts**

The Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra and Chorus tries very hard to avoid scheduling conflicts with area schools. Please discuss any problems in this regard with Creative Director, John Concklin, as soon as you become aware of potential conflicts. Although conflicts cannot always be avoided, clear and timely communication can result in an effective resolution.

## **Attendance Policy**

The most valuable contribution musicians can make to their ensemble is their presence at rehearsal. Membership in the GYSO&C is a commitment to faithful, consistent and punctual attendance. It is expected that rehearsals will be a high priority in each musician's life since each musician is holding a valuable place in his/her ensemble. If a musician is unable to play his/her instrument, s/he should still attend rehearsal, sit in his/her section, and take notes on the directions being given.

## **Tardiness**

Because of the limited rehearsal time, starting promptly is very important. Musicians should arrive early to receive new music and/or newsletters, check for new seating and warm-up. Arriving late or leaving early disrupts the rehearsal. Tardiness or leaving early will be noted, and every three occurrences will be counted as a single absence.

## **Absence**

Musicians in all ensembles are allowed no more than two rehearsals per each rotation, regardless of reason. This includes any absence, such as illness, school or other music activities, family vacations, homework and tests, college visits, religious holidays, etc.

Absences will not be marked excused or unexcused, but simply as an absence. We realize that life happens, and if unavoidable emergencies arise, we will deal with them accordingly.

If you are aware of an anticipated absence, or of a need to leave early or come late to a particular rehearsal, please fill out an Absence Card and bring it in advance to rehearsal or drop it in the mail prior to the date of the absence. In the case of an emergency the day of the rehearsal/concert, please call the GYSO&C office at 770.429.7015 before the rehearsal/concert begins.

If a musician exceeds the allowed absences, a meeting will be scheduled with the student and his/her parent(s) or legal guardian(s), GYSO&C Executive Director, and the conductor of the particular ensemble to discuss continued participation in the GYSO&C. Conductors reserve the right to dismiss a musician from their ensemble due to lack of commitment as demonstrated by attendance, or other factors including, but not limited to: part preparation, attitude, or rehearsal behavior.

## **Dress Rehearsals**

Attendance at dress rehearsals is required. Musicians not present for a concert dress rehearsal may be asked not to perform in the concert.

## **Concert Dress**

Ladies: Full-length black skirt or black dress slacks with black top with discreet neckline and long sleeves or full-length black dress with discreet neckline and long sleeves. If sleeves are short, a matching black jacket or black sweater with long sleeves is required to be worn. Black conservative dress shoes with black tights or black pantyhose (no patterns). Jeans and cords are not acceptable.

Gentlemen: Tuxedo or black suit (no tails), white shirt with a black bow tie, black dress shoes and black socks.

No perfume, cologne or after shave, please.

## **Code of Conduct**

Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra and Chorus musicians are ambassadors for the organization, and the behavior of each musician reflects upon the entire group. Each student will be expected to use good manners, display common courtesy, and show consideration for others. A successful GYSO&C experience requires a cohesive group in which each individual accepts and follows the same standards of behavior. As a member of the GYSO&C, you will also be representing the GYSO&C in your schools. We expect the same code of conduct that is adhered to at the GYSO&C to be adhered to in all school settings.

## **Recruitment**

The Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra and Chorus encourages members and parents to refer interested students to us for auditions. The conductors schedule visits to area schools to talk about our program but it is often the recommendation of a member or a parent who can bring interested musicians to our program.

## **Ticket Initiative**

30% of every ticket price purchased in a student's name is distributed into an account from which that student can use to purchase items related to their musical growth. Students in the past have used it from items ranging from reeds and rosin, to the GYSO&C/KSU summer music clinic. To retrieve those funds, simply contact John Concklin.

## **Music**

Orchestral music is expensive. Some of the music we perform is rented and since replacement charges can range from \$5 to \$50 per part, you should handle your music carefully and return it

on time, as announced in rehearsals. Students will be fined the replacement cost for lost, damage or stolen music. If there is a problem with the music you have been assigned (damaged, marked with pen or colored pencil, etc), or if a particular piece is missing from your folder, please bring it to the Librarian's attention immediately. Failure to do this will result in a fine.

## **PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

### **Rehearsals**

Rehearsals are held at the aforementioned locations. In case of inclement weather, rehearsal may be cancelled. In such a case, the GYSO&C Telephone tree will be activated. If you do not receive a call, you may call the GYSO&C office, 770.429.7015, for a recorded message about the rehearsal. Attendance is taken and recorded at every rehearsal. Because tardiness is disruptive, we ask that musicians arrive no later than fifteen minutes prior to the start of rehearsal. All musicians should be warmed up, seated and ready to tune at the start of rehearsal.

### **Rehearsal Reminders**

- Practice Time

It is imperative for students to prepare their parts outside of rehearsal. The amount of time needed for home practice will vary from student to student, but the responsibility for individual practice is an important one and must be taken seriously.

- Music

Players must have all their music at every rehearsal. If you must be absent from a rehearsal, make arrangements to have your music there if needed. This is especially true for some wind, brass and percussion folders where more than one instrument may be notated on a part. DO NOT rely on your stand partner for music at rehearsals or concerts. You are expected to have your music at all GYSO activities.

- Marking Music

Every player must use only pencil to mark his or her music. No ink or colored pencil. Keep at least two sharpened pencils in your case or folder at all times. String players who are sharing folders must mark both copies of their music with changed bowings, fingerings, etc. for at-home practice.

- Instrument Cases and Accessories

Please make certain all of your instrument cases and accessories are clearly marked with your name. Students may be asked to store cases in a nearby room during rehearsals.

- Food and Beverages

NO FOOD OR DRINK IN THE REHEARSAL ROOMS. Water in a closed plastic container is OK, but no open containers or glass bottles, please.

### **Woodwind Players**

- Please have extra reeds (at least 4 playable reeds) with you at every rehearsal and Concert.
- Consider investing in an electronic tuner and metronome.

### **Brass Players**

- All players must have the required mutes at all rehearsals.
- Consider investing in an electronic tuner and metronome.

### **Percussionists**

- Please provide your own sticks and mallets.

### **String Players**

- Please have a mute with you at your stand at every rehearsal.
- Bring your own shoulder rest (as needed), rosin, dust cloth, and one (1) extra set of strings to rehearsal at all times.

### **Seating**

GYSO follows a general policy of rotating seating, but specific seating procedures are at the discretion of each individual conductor and may change throughout the season. Our seating philosophy is intended to provide fair opportunities, new perspectives, and the greatest learning experience for all players. Seating is generally based on audition, as well as maturity, leadership, and the rehearsal habits of the player. Wind and brass seating may rotate on a piece-by-piece basis, at the discretion of the Artistic Director. String seating follows a variety of formats.

**Ensemble Schedule** (All ensembles rehearse on Sundays, except Chorus which meets on Tuesdays)

Jazz	3:00 - 4:30
Philharmonia	3:00 - 5:30
Philharmonia Winds	3:00 - 4:15
Sinfonia	4:00- 5:30
Camerata Winds	4:45 - 6:15
Camerata	5:30 - 7:00
Percussion Ensemble	6:15 - 7:45
Symphony Orchestra	6:15 - 8:45
MS Chorus	5:30 - 6:30 (Tuesdays)
HS Chorus	6:30 – 7:00 (Tuesdays)

Please note: Due to the wide variance in spring break schedules, GYSO will continue throughout February, March and April. If you have a planned trip, religious holiday, etc., please complete a yellow absence form for this absence.

## **FINANCES**

### **Tuition**

GYSO tuition includes instruction, all sheet music, fall and winter camps, transportation for school run-out concerts, masterclasses, and sectional coaches among numerous other offerings. Extended tours outside the greater Atlanta area will be funded separately. Tuition covers less than 30% of the total cost to support a musician in the program.

Payment can be made in full for the entire year or in three installments (September, October, and November). If you need an extended payment schedule, provide the request on your contract and terms will be arranged.

Our organization has made a year-long commitment to the development of each musician. Therefore, even if a student discontinues participation in his/her ensemble, unpaid tuition will still be due.

### **Payment Methods**

All funds received by the GYSO must be in check or money order made payable to: GYSO. NO CASH will be accepted. Please be sure to include student's full name (first and last), ensemble name, and purpose of payment on each check or money order. Bank fees resulting from a check returned to the GYSO will become the responsibility of the paying party and will be assessed to the student's account.

## **Tuition Schedule**

All GYSO ensembles cost \$335.00 per year for a musician's participation. Payments may be made in increments of \$111.66 per month for September, October, and November, or other arrangements made should circumstances arise. Our philosophy is that we will work with you to make this opportunity a reality for your children.

## **Financial Aid**

Financial Aid may be available for part of the GYSO tuition. All financial aid recipients are expected to pay part of their tuition directly or in the form of work-study. Financial assistance is very limited and will be kept strictly confidential. Please complete the Financial Aid Request a form on your Letter of Agreement.

Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra and Chorus  
Student/Parent/Youth Orchestra Agreement  
2009-2010 Season

Please read the following policy statements carefully

**Attendance Policy**

The most valuable contribution musicians can make to their ensemble is their presence at rehearsal. Membership in the Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra and Chorus is a commitment to faithful, consistent and punctual attendance. It is expected that rehearsals will be a high priority in each musician's life since each musician is holding a valuable place in his/her ensemble. Musicians in all ensembles are allowed no more than two (2) absences per rotation, regardless of reason. This includes any absence, such as illness, school or other music activities, family vacations, homework and tests, college visits, religious holidays, etc. Absences will not be marked excused or unexcused, but simply as an absence. We realize that life happens, and if unavoidable emergencies arise, we will deal with them accordingly.

**Tuition**

All tuition is non-refundable. All funds received by the Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra and Chorus MUST be in a check or money order made payable to GYSO&C. Please be sure to include musician's full name (first and last), and purpose of payment on each check or money order. Tuition may be paid all at once, in the payment plan outlined below, or if extenuating conditions exist, in an individual plan. Our organization has made a year-long commitment to the development of each musician. Therefore, even if a student discontinues participation in his/her ensemble, unpaid tuition will still be due. Tuition: \$112 deposit due 9/13/09, \$112 is due on or before 10/11/09 and the balance of \$111 is due on 11/15/09 for a total of \$335 for the year.

**Code of Conduct**

GYSO&C musicians are ambassadors for the organization, and the behavior of each musician reflects upon the entire group. Each student will be expected to use good manners, display common courtesy, and show consideration for others. A successful GYSO&C experience requires a cohesive group in which each individual accepts and follows the same standards of behavior. As a member of the GYSO&C, you will also be representing the GYSO&C in your schools. We expect the same code of conduct that is adhered to at the GYSO&C to be adhered to in all school settings.

**Diversity**

GYSO&C is dedicated to educating a diverse group of musicians, GYSO&C affirms its commitment to a community in which all students and staff are accepted as individuals, independent of ancestry, social background, race, gender, disability, sexual orientation, physical characteristics or personal beliefs.

**School Participation:**

Participation in school music organizations is required, provided one exists.

**Ownership Right:**

GYSO owns all rights to audio and video recordings.

I, \_\_\_\_\_ have read the above statements and agree to accept them as a condition of being a member of the Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra and Chorus. I realize that if I fail to follow any of the above policies, I may be dismissed from the Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra and Chorus.

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Student Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

# Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra and Chorus

## Medical Waiver, Instrument Liability and General Release

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Home Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Two Emergency Contacts (name and telephone #): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Physician and Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Dentist and Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Hospital: \_\_\_\_\_

INSURANCE INFORMATION: Do you have health insurance?  yes  no

Medical Insurance Plan Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Policy #: \_\_\_\_\_ Subscriber's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Subscriber's Social Security Number of ID \_\_\_\_\_

### STUDENT MEDICAL INFORMATION

Please explain any chronic medical problems or conditions that could limit the student's participation in any artistic, social, or athletic activities: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please enter the date of the last Tetanus immunization the student has received: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list any allergies to food, medication, etc.:

Please list any dietary restrictions: \_\_diabetic \_\_lactose intolerant \_\_vegan  
\_\_vegetarian \_\_no fish \_\_no chicken \_\_no red meat \_\_no pork \_\_no eggs

I give permission for \_\_\_\_\_ to receive medical treatment (including medication, laboratory studies, x-rays, emergency services, blood transfusions, surgery, etc) upon the authorization of the designated staff of the Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra and Chorus. I understand that every attempt will be made to contact me if a medical emergency arises. Also, I understand that in the event the preferred doctor/dentist/hospital is not available, another licensed physician or dentist or a reasonably accessible hospital will be used. This authorization does not cover major surgery unless the medical opinions of two other licensed physicians or dentists, concurring in the necessity of such surgery, are obtained before the surgery.

**Instrument Liability**

I hereby agree for and on behalf of myself, my dependents, heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns to use utmost care when handling, using, or in the presence of, any equipment belonging to the Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, its sponsors, officers, agents, licensees and representatives. I also agree that any damage incurred to any equipment/instruments while in my possession will be the sole responsibility for full replacement value and/or replacement/repair costs to the parties signed below, occurring during any portion of, or in relation to this program.

**Waiver and Release**

I hereby agree for and on behalf of myself, my dependents, heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns to release and hold harmless the Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, its sponsors, officers, agents, licensees and representatives from any and all liability for delays, injuries, illness or death, or for the loss of or damage to my property, occurring during any portion of, or in relation to this program.

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Printed Name

All information will be kept strictly confidential in accordance with the Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra and Chorus Confidentiality Policy.

