



Harrisburg Symphony Youth Orchestras Musician and Parent Handbook

2023–2024

Gregory Woodbridge, Music Director and HSYO Conductor
Krista Kriel, Junior Youth String Orchestra Conductor
Michael Gamon, Elementary String Orchestra Conductor
Mark Hunsberger, Director of Education
Tatiana Cassetta, HSYO Coordinator

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ABOUT THE HARRISBURG SYMPHONY YOUTH ORCHESTRAS

The purpose of the Harrisburg Symphony Youth Orchestras is to enrich the lives of young people within a musical community. We provide the finest possible training, practice and performance opportunities, enabling our students to learn, share and enjoy the power of music.

In partnership with the Harrisburg Symphony, parents, teachers and schools we:

- Provide exposure to diverse orchestral styles under the guidance of professional musicians.
- Offer the opportunity for HSYO members to work closely with professional musicians in the Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra.
- Foster a sense of achievement and self-esteem through a developmental approach.
- Promote self-discipline and teamwork through respect for artistic standards.

Founded in 1953 by Noah Klaus, who was a noted music educator and strings teacher, the Harrisburg Symphony Youth Orchestra (HSYO), formerly known as the Harrisburg Youth Symphony Orchestra, is one of the oldest youth orchestras in the country. Until 2010, the HSYO has had just two conductors: its founder, Mr. Klaus, and Dr. Ronald E. Schafer, who led the youth orchestra for more than forty years. Today, the HSYO is an organization under the Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra's umbrella and is comprised of approximately 165 young musicians that make up three orchestras: the Harrisburg Symphony Youth Orchestra, the Junior Youth String Orchestra, and the Elementary String Orchestra. The HSYO attracts young musicians from over forty public, private, home and cyber schools throughout the greater Harrisburg area.

Structure The Harrisburg Symphony Youth Orchestra is comprised of three age-differentiated orchestras and a chamber ensembles program. The three ensembles, each with their own highly qualified conductor, allow the individual to progress with young musicians of similar ability.

HARRISBURG SYMPHONY YOUTH ORCHESTRA is a full orchestra performing advanced repertoire. Open to students in grades 9-12.

JUNIOR YOUTH STRING ORCHESTRA provides a transition for string players moving to the more advanced repertoire that will be performed in HSYO. Open to students in grades 6-9.

ELEMENTARY STRING ORCHESTRA offers beginning string players a full string orchestra experience. Additionally, this ensemble helps prepare students to successfully join the Junior Youth String Orchestra.

Membership and placement are by audition only. Each player, including all returning members from the previous year, will be auditioned every year to ensure correct placement according to individual ability.

Contact/Venue Information

Harrisburg Symphony Youth Orchestras

800 Corporate Circle

Suite 101

Harrisburg, PA 17110

Mark Hunsberger, Director of Education, 717-612-4965

mark@harrisburgsymphony.org

Tatiana Cassetta, HSYO Coordinator

tatiana@harrisburgsymphony.org

Harrisburg Symphony office line: 717-545-5527

www.harrisburgsymphony.org

Rehearsal Location

Rehearsals for all HSYO ensembles take place at:

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

2000 Chestnut Street

Camp Hill, PA 17011

Concert Locations

For the 2023-2024 season, concert locations include:

The Forum Auditorium

500 Walnut St

Harrisburg, PA 17101

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

2000 Chestnut Street

Camp Hill, PA 17011

CONDUCTORS

GREGORY WOODBRIDGE

HSYO Music Director and Conductor

Maestro Gregory Woodbridge began studying piano at the age of seven and violin at the age of nine. He holds degrees from Penn State University, where he was assistant conductor for the Penn State Philharmonic, the Penn State Chamber Orchestra, and the Central Pennsylvania Youth Orchestra. Additional conducting studies include the Pierre Monteux Conducting Institute in Maine with Michael Jinbo; Leonid Korchmar (Kirov Opera and St. Petersburg Conservatory); Ennio Nicotra (founder of the Musin Society); and Gustav Meier and JoAnn Falletta at the Conductor's Institute Richmond Symphony Masterclass. In August 2013, Mr. Woodbridge returned to Perugia, Italy, where he continued to hone his conducting skills, working again with Ennio Nicotra.

Woodbridge was recently honored by the Penn State School of Music with their Distinguished Alumni award for his work with youth orchestras, including the Hershey High School Symphony Orchestra, a 110-member orchestra that won a performance spot at the PMEA All-State Conference in April 2010. He was also the Music Director and Conductor of the Wednesday Club Youth Orchestra (Harrisburg, PA) from 2000–2007, a highly selective string orchestra that had the distinct honor of performing with fiddler Mark O'Connor on two separate tours to the Harrisburg area. In 2010, Mr. Woodbridge was named a Conducting Fellow with the Allentown Symphony by their Music Director, Diane Wittry.

Previous guest conducting engagements include the York Symphony (PA), the PMEA Region IV–V State Orchestra Festival, the Lebanon Valley College-Community Orchestra, and the Messiah College Orchestra. Mr. Woodbridge lives in Lancaster, PA with his wife Heather and their two children Delaney and Liam.

KRISTA KRIEL

JYSO Conductor

Krista Kriel has been teaching music for over twenty years, most recently in the Gettysburg School District. Along with teaching in public schools, Krista is also on staff at Messiah College Orchestra Camp and is an adjudicator with Music in the Parks. She has conducted the Harrisburg Junior Youth String Orchestra since 2011.

Krista conducted the District 7 String Fest in 2008 and the Dauphin County High School Orchestra Festival in 2010. In 2011 Krista spent a semester as an Adjunct Assistant at the Sunderman Conservatory, teaching a collaborative Instrumental Methods class. She was a clinician at the 2012 PMEA Conference, presenting a clinic on Developing School-Collaborative Partnership Models across the state of Pennsylvania

Along with conducting, Krista plays violin for the Carlisle String Quartet, the Shippensburg University Orchestra and the Gettysburg Chamber Orchestra. Krista has also played for the Gettysburg Festival Orchestra, Theatre Harrisburg, the Gettysburg College Orchestra, the Hanover String Quartet, the Grosse String Quartet, and the Latimore String Quartet.

Krista has three daughters, Ashley, Hannah, and Paige, and resides in Gettysburg with her husband, Dan.

Michael Gamon*ESO Conductor*

Michael Gamon currently chairs the Department of Fine and Performing Arts at Harrisburg Academy and serves as the Director for the Center for Creative Arts. He serves as professor of viola at Kutztown University and has a passion for training young musicians. He has served on the artistic staff of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, as the conductor for the Baltimore Symphony Youth String Orchestra. In addition, he has served as the conductor for the Greater Baltimore Youth Orchestra's Sinfonia, Sinfonietta, and Bridges Orchestras.

Mr. Gamon is a graduate of the Peabody Conservatory of Johns Hopkins University, where he studied viola performance with Victoria Chiang and pedagogy with Rebecca Henry. As an orchestral musician, he has worked with Marin Alsop, David Zinman, Jamie Laredo, George Manahan, and James Conlon among others. He has performed throughout Austria, Italy, and the Czech Republic with notable appearances at the Karlskirche in Salzburg, the Rudolfinum in Prague, and the Sala Dei Priori in Perugia. Performances include the nationally televised 32nd Kennedy Center Honors with the Peabody Symphony Orchestra in honor of Leon Fleischer, U.S. President George W. Bush, Baltimore Mayors Sheila Dixon, and Stephanie Rawlings-Blake. Additionally, Mr. Gamon has appeared in solo and chamber music recital series throughout the Baltimore and Central Pennsylvania regions.

Mr. Gamon is a scholarship recipient of the Aspen Music Festival and School where he has worked with numerous artist-faculty such as Jeffery Irvine, Steve Wyczinski, Sabina Thatcher, Eric Halen, and David Halen. He has graduated *summa cum laude* from Lebanon Valley College with a music degree on viola. While at Lebanon Valley College, he won the concerto-aria competition and soloed with the Lebanon Valley College Symphony Orchestra and received the Carmean Orchestra Award. Mr. Gamon worked closely with collaborative pianist Dr. Karen Savage and violinist Dr. Hannes Dietrich.

POLICIES FOR YOUTH ORCHESTRA MEMBERS

PLACEMENT AND ACCEPTANCE

The primary outcome of the auditions is assignment to one of the two Harrisburg Symphony Youth Orchestras (ESO does not require auditions). Acceptance and placement decisions are at the sole discretion of the conductors' considerable professional judgments and are final.

Orchestra placements will be posted on the HSO web site during the week preceding the first rehearsal and will be announced via email. Please make note of the number assigned to your name at the time of auditions. Names will not be posted on the website; only audition numbers. Orchestra placement, as well as seating assignments, will be posted at the first rehearsal.

SEATING ASSIGNMENT

At the first rehearsal, students will be notified of their ranking within their instrument group. Seating within most sections of the orchestra will, for the most part, hold true to that ranking. However, some section players may be assigned a part number that DOES NOT directly correlate with their rank among their instrument group. This is standard practice among youth orchestras and is dependent upon player strengths and demand of the part. Additionally, depending on the repertoire and acoustics of the hall, seating assignments MAY be rotated as the season progresses.

SCHOOL PARTICIPATION and PRIVATE STUDY

All HSYO members are expected to participate in their school orchestra or band programs on the instrument they intend to play in an HSYO ensemble.

It is expected that all members will pursue private study on their orchestral instruments.

ORCHESTRA PARTICIPATION

To preserve orchestral integrity, musicians who (i) audition and do not accept their assigned orchestral placement; or (ii) withdraw during the year for any reason other than medical necessity; or (iii) fail to participate in a concert for any reason other than medical necessity; or (iv) are dismissed during the year; may be suspended from HSYO for that orchestral year and may be barred from re-auditioning in the orchestral year following the year of such non-acceptance, withdrawal, failure to participate, or dismissal. The above situations shall be referred to the HSYO Advisory Committee for review and for the imposition of the full or lesser sanctions. Tuition will not be refunded to students who withdraw during the year for any reason other than medical necessity.

PREPARATION & SUPPLIES

Musicians are expected to attend all rehearsals fully prepared. This means practicing their parts and learning music at home. This will make each rehearsal enjoyable and productive for all. Musicians are required to bring to each rehearsal (unless otherwise noted): portable music stand; sharpened pencils with erasers; extra strings, reeds, valve oil; proper percussion mallets; and all music parts.

INSURANCE

The Harrisburg Symphony Youth Orchestra's insurance policies do not cover instruments owned by individual members. Please check your household coverage.

MUSIC

Each player is responsible for the care of their music and for bringing it, in the folder/binder provided, to all rehearsals. Music is distributed at the beginning of each concert period and, when necessary, collected following each concert. If HSYO uses borrowed and rented music that does not belong to the HSYO, it is vital that student musicians take extra care to retain their music. Replacements will be the responsibility of the student musician and may be costly.

PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

HSYO students are considered young ambassadors to the community. Thus, professionalism and appropriate behavior are always expected. HSYO reserves the right to dismiss any student if the professional expectations set forth in this HSYO Handbook are not being met.

Any student who exhibits inappropriate behavior at HSYO rehearsals, concerts, or activities jeopardizes their good standing in the orchestra. Behaviors which may result in dismissal include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Repeated acts of disruption during rehearsals (as determined by the conductors)
- Possession or use of any object that is intended to inflict personal injury or property damage
- Use of foul or inappropriate language
- Abuse or improper proper care of any instrument, equipment, or property owned or controlled by HSYO
- Bullying (as defined below)
- Any physical or verbal assault or any act or word that threaten or endanger the safety of another

- Use of illegal drugs, or alcohol, or tobacco, or the abuse of any prescription drugs
- Excessive absenteeism
- Disrespect toward HSYO staff, conductors, or volunteers
- Vandalism of or theft from rehearsal or concert facilities
- Harassment in any form, including without limitation, verbal or sexual harassment

SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

Students should maintain high standards of personal ethics and professionalism at all times and in all places, including on-line platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Snapchat, Instagram, blogs, etc. Students should avoid using statements, photographs, video, or audio that is malicious, obscene, threatening, intimidating, or disparaging to HSYO staff, students, families and schools, or that might constitute harassment or bullying. Examples of such conduct might include offensive posts meant to intentionally harm someone's reputation or posts that contribute to a hostile environment.

All personal on-line posts mentioning HSYO or HSO should reflect the values of the organization. This is to ensure that the image of HSYO and everyone associated with it is responsibly maintained. If any media belonging to HSYO is misused by any member of HSYO, HSYO reserves the right to request the removal of the content and pursue any action necessary deemed to be in the best interest of the HSO or HSYO.

The HSYO reserves the right to consider a student's on-line activity and take appropriate action as necessary to preserve the image of both HSYO and HSO.

CYBERBULLYING POLICY

Any person involved in any HSYO activity who engages in cyberbullying (as defined below) is subject to disciplinary procedures from, but not limited to, HSYO staff, the HSYO Education Board Committee, and the HSO Board of Directors. In any instance in which cyberbullying creates a climate of fear and/or causes a substantial disruption or impinges on the rights of other students, the person committing the act shall be subject to disciplinary procedures. Where appropriate, HSYO directs that instances of bullying or cyberbullying be referred to law enforcement.

REPORTING

Students, parents, staff, and volunteers are required to report any incidents of bullying, cyberbullying, or social media misuse of which they are aware. Reports, which may be submitted anonymously, should be made to the HSYO Administrator and HSO Director of Education, who will investigate these reports and determine the next appropriate course of action.

DEFINITIONS

Bullying

Bullying is unwanted, aggressive behavior that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. Bullying is defined as an intentional electronic, written, verbal or physical act or series of acts directed at another student or students that is severe, persistent, or pervasive and has the intent of doing any of the following:

- Substantial interference with a student's HSYO experience
- Creation of a threatening environment
- Substantial disruption of the orderly operation of any HSYO event

Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying includes the use of any form of electronic communication including, but not limited to phone, text messaging, Internet, websites, email, blog, chat rooms, instant messaging, and social media with the intent to:

- Embarrass, hurt, intimidate, harass, or coerce another student
- Use vulgar, obscene, profane, lewd or lascivious language to communicate such harassment
- Threaten an illegal or immoral act

TUITION

Harrisburg Symphony Youth Orchestra	\$480
Junior Youth String Orchestra	\$360
Elementary String Orchestra	\$240

PAYMENT

A non-refundable \$20.00 audition fee must be paid prior to the time of the student's audition (HSYO and JYSO only). The tuition fees above **do not include** the \$20.00 audition fee.

Full tuition payment is expected by the first rehearsal. Online payment options will become available after audition results are announced.

FINANCIAL AID

Students who demonstrate need for financial aid may receive awards for 50% or 80% of the total tuition cost. Please contact Mark Hunsberger at mark@harrisburgsymphony.org for financial aid applications or to discuss alternative tuition payment arrangements.

ATTENDANCE

ARRIVAL AND PICK-UP

Rehearsals begin and end promptly. Students are expected to arrive 15 minutes prior to each rehearsal to allow time to tune and warm up. All student musicians should be ready to begin playing at the scheduled start of the rehearsal. Any musician who is not present at the first downbeat of the rehearsal will be considered late. Also, it is expected that student musicians will be picked up at the posted ending time of each rehearsal.

REHEARSAL ATTENDANCE

Student musicians are allowed no more than two (2) absences during any one concert preparation period, or a total of six (6) absences per season. There is no differentiation made between “excused” or “unexcused” absences; all are counted equally. **IF YOU ARE GOING TO MISS A REHEARSAL, YOU MUST CONTACT THE HSYO COORDINATOR, TO LET THEM KNOW PRIOR TO THE REHEARSAL.**

Tardiness or leaving early may be counted as one half (1/2) an absence. Students are tardy if they are not in their seats, tuned, with their music on the stands at the scheduled rehearsal time. If a student is excluded from a concert for attendance reasons, that student may remain in the program without penalty, **PROVIDED THEY ATTEND THE CONCERT AS A MEMBER OF THE AUDIENCE AS A SHOW OF SUPPORT FOR THEIR FELLOW MUSICIANS.**

Because of the high level of musicianship required by the orchestras, attendance at **concerts, pre-dress, and dress rehearsals is mandatory.** Students who are absent from a mandatory rehearsal may not be permitted to perform in the concert. If a student misses a concert, they may be barred from participation in the program for the remainder of the season and may not be permitted to participate again until one full concert season has passed.

If a student drops out of the HSYO program before the end of the season, tuition will not be refunded and the student may not be eligible to return to the HSYO. Decisions will be made at the discretion of the HSYO Advisory Committee.

REPORTING AN ABSENCE

Members should report absences by email to the HSYO Coordinator. It is preferred that you notify the HSYO one week prior to the rehearsal that you will be missing.

TARDINESS

Any musician who is excessively tardy or requests excessive early departures from rehearsal may forfeit their membership in the ensemble. Excessive is defined as more than three tardies or early departures during any one concert preparation cycle. Three “tardies” or “leave early departures” or a combination of both will be counted as one absence. Final determination regarding dismissal from the ensembles will be made by the Conductors.

SEVERE WEATHER PROCEDURE

If bad weather causes a rehearsal cancellation, an email will be sent to all HSYO members. When necessary, cancellation information will be sent to local radio and television stations. Please remember that HSYO members come from dozens of different communities, some of which may have more severe weather problems than others. If a rehearsal is not cancelled and you have concerns about your child’s safety in traveling to Harrisburg, please use your own best judgment. Such absences will not count as one of the two allowed absences of the concert period. Please notify the HSYO Coordinator if you decide not to send your child.

CONCERT DRESS

Correct concert dress makes our performances more professional and keeps the audience's focus on the music, not the players. The following dress code will therefore be strictly enforced. If you need assistance in finding concert dress items, please call the office. A musician who arrives at a concert dressed in a manner which does not conform to this dress code may be denied participation in the concert or be seated in the back of their section. Please plan accordingly.

Students should choose from one of the following:

- 1A. Long-sleeved black blouse/dress shirt with black dress pants/long skirt (floor- or ankle-length)

OR

- 1B. Floor- or ankle-length black dress (with sleeves)

AND

- 2. Black dress shoes (closed toe, no sandals) with black dress socks/stockings/hosiery

NOTE:

- No bare: arms, midriffs, legs, or feet.
- No tight-fitting clothes.
- No jeans.

ENRICHMENT

CONCERTO COMPETITION

The HSYO sponsors a Concerto Competition every year for members of the Harrisburg Symphony Youth Orchestra. All HSYO members in good standing may audition for this event. The winner will play a movement of the concerto with the orchestra at the May concert. Full details concerning the Concerto Competition may be found on the HSYO website.

SECTIONAL REHEARSALS/COACHINGS

Professional musicians are brought to rehearsals to work specifically with different sections of the HSYOs. Such sessions are invaluable in helping to prepare each member for performances and in producing a unified sound within sections.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Community Service concerts enhance the performance experience for HSYO musicians, while thanking the community for the support it (and its musicians) receive. Therefore, there are occasions when the HSYO orchestras perform benefit concerts in the area. These are also mandatory activities.

YOUNG PERSON'S CONCERT

Each spring, the Harrisburg Symphony performs a Young Person's Concert (YPC) for school-age children at the Forum. This season, the HSYO, along with principal members of the Harrisburg Symphony, will perform the Young Person's Concert, a school day concert for approximately 3,000 students from the greater Harrisburg area. This experience will place HSYO musicians alongside HSO musicians for a special presentation of musical repertoire developed by the Weill Music Institute of Carnegie Hall (THAT Carnegie Hall!). The YPC does take place on a school day, and we recognize that this is a very busy time for all students, particularly seniors, but we believe the experience is an extraordinary one for all participants. A school excuse letter will be provided for each student from HSYO.

MUSICAL CHAIRS AT THE HSO

Students and their families are encouraged to attend Harrisburg Symphony Masterworks concerts whenever possible. To this end, the HSO makes available to families a deeply discounted subscription option called Musical Chairs. Families with school age (K–12) students may purchase tickets for all seven Masterworks Series concerts for \$45.00 per subscription! The subscription cost for a family of four would be \$180.00. To purchase your Musical Chairs subscription, please visit the [Musical Chairs page on the HSO website](#).