

greater twin cities youth symphonies



2021–22 Musician Handbook

408 St. Peter Street, Suite 300

Saint Paul, MN 55102

Phone 651.602.6800 |

mail@gtcys.org | www.gtcys.org



WELCOME

Dear GTCYS Musicians,

Welcome to the GTCYS family! You are now part of GTCYS' wonderful legacy of transforming young people through music. We are delighted and grateful to have you involved! From our youngest musicians in our Harmony strings instruction program to our Symphony musicians, every student in our ten school-year orchestras will benefit from opportunities for music making, social activities, and personal development. These are integral parts of GTCYS' holistic approach to music education that will equip students with skills and values to boost their success in school and beyond.

Amazing orchestral repertoire, festival concerts at Orchestra Hall, community performances, retreats, and vibrant collaborations with special guests, are just a few of the artistic highlights to which we look forward as we emerge from the COVID pandemic. We look forward to building in pizza parties and concert outings as the year progress to provide fun social outlets. Students can also build valuable leadership and communication skills through special opportunities.

Being a GTCYS member is rewarding and enjoyable, and we know you will create lifelong memories with us. It is also an honor and a responsibility. We ask that students and parents "play your part," which begins by thoroughly reading this handbook. Our expectations and policies are designed with students in mind to help them achieve their individual and collective best. They are also designed to create a supportive culture where all students are welcomed and valued. This handbook should answer most of your questions about all things GTCYS, and you can count on us to communicate closely with you throughout the year. Should you have any questions or suggestions along the way, please contact a member of our staff.

Thank you for your participation in GTCYS. We look forward to a wonderful year with your family!

Sincerely,

Megen Balda
Executive Director

Mark Russell Smith
Artistic Director

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. ORGANIZATIONAL INFO

Who's Who

Administrative & Artistic Staff	4-5
Mission & About GTCYS	6-7
Board of Directors & Alumni Association	6
Equity & Inclusion	6-7

II. PROGRAM DETAILS

Rehearsals

What to Bring	8-9
Summary of COVID-19 Protocols	10-11
Getting to Rehearsals	12-14

Concerts

Schedule	15
Tickets	16
Livestreams & Recordings	16
Attire	17
Program Activities & Extra Opportunities	18-19
The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra Partnership	19

III. PARTICIPATION

Expectations & Conduct	20-21
Attendance Policy	22
Seating Policies & Part Assignments	23-24
Tuition & Tuition Assistance	24-25
Withdrawal & Tuition Refund Policies	26
Parent Involvement	27
Release & Indemnification Agreement	28
Policy for Child Protection	29-30
ADA Access Statement & Plan	30-31

ADMINISTRATIVE & ARTISTIC STAFF

GTCYS Office

408 St. Peter Street, Suite 300, Saint Paul, MN 55102

Tel 651.602.6800 | Fax 651.292.3281 |

Email mail@gtcys.org

www.gtcys.org

GTCYS Administrative Team

Megen Balda, Executive Director	651.602.6802	megen@gtcys.org
Miranda Bryan, Program Director	651.602.6807	miranda@gtcys.org
Adam Rappel, Operations Manager	651.602.6805	adam@gtcys.org
Katie Heilman, Program Assistant	651.602.6803	katie@gtcys.org
Paul Schimming, Librarian	651.602.6804	paul@gtcys.org
Kelly Turpin, Development Manager	651.602.6808	kelly@gtcys.org
Morgan May, Communications & Marketing Manager	651.602.6816	morgan@gtcys.org
Naomi Schroeter, Harmony Manager	651.602.6809	naomi@gtcys.org
Samuel Phillips, Community Liaison		samuel@gtcys.org

GTCYS Artistic Team

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

Mark Russell Smith, Artistic Director & Symphony conductor	mark@gtcys.org
Mary Sorlie, Philharmonia East & West conductor & Harmony Director	mary@gtcys.org
Ernesto Estigarribia, Sinfonia East & Philharmonic conductor	ernesto@gtcys.org
Laura Hebert, Sinfonia West conductor	laura@gtcys.org
Tamara Gonzalez, Concertino East conductor	tamara@gtcys.org
Dan Mollick, Concertino West conductor	dan@gtcys.org
Kent Musser, Camerata conductor	kent@gtcys.org
Mark Gitch, Concert Orchestra conductor	mgitch@gtcys.org

Rehearsal Assistants

Rehearsal Assistants (RAs) are the primary point of contact between students, parents, and the staff at GTCYS events. The RA functions as the personnel manager and assistant for each orchestra, undertaking administrative tasks so that the conductor may focus on the orchestra. RAs set up the chairs for the orchestra, take attendance and monitor absences, distribute and collect music, help members with musical needs, and assist the conductor during rehearsals. GTCYS does not provide contact information for our Rehearsal Assistants. To report an absence, follow the steps on page 22.

How do I contact my conductor or RA?

Conductors and RAs do not have offices or voicemails at GTCYS. If you need to relay info to an RA, do so in person at rehearsal. You may also speak with your conductor at rehearsal or email. If you have a question for your RA between rehearsals, you may relay it through the Program Assistant (Katie Heilman) or Operations Manager (Adam Rappel).

How do I contact the office staff?

GTCYS' office hours are Monday through Friday, 9:00am – 5:00pm. If you have questions or concerns, contact us at 651.602.6800 or info@gtcys.org. The staff is happy to talk to you.

If you have questions or ideas about:	Talk to:
Attendance _____	Rehearsal Assistant (RA) or Program Assistant
Schedule or events _____	RA or Operations Manager
Placement/seating within the orchestra _____	Conductor
Tuition payments _____	Program Assistant
Tuition Assistance _____	Program Director
Student records _____	Program Assistant
Lost music _____	RA or Librarian
Student and Parent concerns _____	Program Director or Executive Director
Auditions _____	Program Assistant
Fundraising ideas/events _____	Development Manager or Executive Director
Sponsorships or grants _____	Development Manager or Executive Director
Advertising _____	Communications and Marketing Manager
Touring _____	Program Director or Executive Director
Student leadership opportunities _____	Program Director
Volunteering _____	Program Assistant
Board membership _____	Executive Director
Alumni _____	Executive Director
Student & Alumni News _____	Communications and Marketing Manager

Engage with GTCYS on Social Media!

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

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Instagram](#)

[YouTube](#)

ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION

Our Mission

In the conviction that music nourishes the mind, body, and spirit of the individual and enriches the community, the Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphonies provides a rigorous and inspiring orchestral experience for young musicians.

About Us

The Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphonies (GTCYS) opens doors to music learning and provides a pathway for students of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds. Using music as a vehicle with a developmental approach, our educational programs break down barriers, inspiring students to excel musically and build lifelong skills which serve them in school and beyond.

As one of the country's leading youth orchestra programs, GTCYS typically serves more than 1,000 students ages 8-18 through year-round programs which include ten school-year orchestras, summer camps, and our Harmony strings instruction program for underrepresented youth. Rather than capping enrollment, GTCYS continually expands its programming to meet growing interest and community needs. Started in 2016, GTCYS' equity, diversity, and inclusion initiatives remain a top priority. To make our programs accessible and address socio-economic barriers, GTCYS awards more than \$125,000 in tuition assistance and support for private lessons.

GTCYS believes in bringing music to diverse audiences and, in a typical year, our students share their talents through 30 free and ticketed performances at Twin Cities schools, homeless shelters, and senior care centers, plus formal concerts at premier venues like Orchestra Hall and The Ordway. In total, GTCYS reaches more than 17,000 children and adults through our educational programs, free community activities, concerts, and special events each year.

Celebrating its 50th Anniversary Season in 2021-22, GTCYS has served 16,000 students in its history. Alumni include leaders in every field who use the lifelong values of teamwork, discipline, and community engagement developed during their GTCYS experience. Learn more at www.gtcys.org.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

GTCYS' Board of Directors comprises 20-25 individuals who volunteer their time, provide expertise, and share financial resources in support of the organization, while providing sound governance, strategic planning and financial oversight. Directors include representatives from Minnesota's leading corporations, some of whom are GTCYS alumni or parents of current or past GTCYS students. For a current list of board members, please visit www.gtcys.org/about/staff.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Launched in 2012, the [Alumni Association](#) is free and open to anyone who participated in any GTCYS orchestra for a year or more and provides ways for alumni to stay engaged with each other and with GTCYS.

EQUITY & INCLUSION

GTCYS strives to create an equitable and inclusive program for all students. To drive equity within GTCYS, we are pursuing strategies that seek to reduce barriers and broaden access, recruit and retain students from underrepresented populations, and cultivate an inclusive culture.

In response to the murder of George Floyd, we shared the following public statement in June 2020, and are more committed than ever to pursue equity and anti-racism to lift up the BIPOC community and others who have been discriminated against.

“GTCYS sees and shares the community's pain in mourning George Floyd. We are outraged by the senseless and callous murder of George Floyd which is yet another sign of the persistent and systemic racism that exists here in the Twin Cities and across our nation. Our hearts go out to all who have been affected by racial inequalities and those who have been directly impacted by the civil unrest.

GTCYS believes that Black lives matter.

We believe in equitable opportunities and justice. We see the humanity of Black people and recognize the valuable and long-standing contributions they have made in society and to the arts. We acknowledge the deep oppression that the Black community and people of color have experienced due to systemic racism.

GTCYS acknowledges that we are complicit and have not done enough to lift up our Black neighbors and people of color.

Beliefs are not enough. Seeing and acknowledging are not enough.

GTCYS can and will do better.

Building on our existing equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) work started in 2016 – in tandem with our ongoing commitment to increasing access – we will partner with the community to:

- Listen and learn from additional and ongoing sessions with GTCYS families and communities of color
- Provide first-time students of color with instruments and scholarships for private lessons
- Expand our Harmony strings instruction program and support students as they advance through GTCYS' orchestras
- Create a student council so young voices from different backgrounds across the Twin Cities are represented
- Augment repertoire choices and programming to lift up more composers and artists of color
- Expand the racial diversity of our board of directors, conductors, and staff
- Learn from anti-racism training and continued EDI work
- Revamp our student policies and scholarship process so inclusion is at the forefront
- Prioritize the equity, diversity, and inclusion goals in our strategic plan to ensure that equity is a lens for all of our actions

We invite your input as we strive to create a more equitable and inclusive community through our work with young people. What would you like to see? What should we do differently? Please email executive director Megen Balda at megen@gtcys.org or call 651-602-6802.

This moment is an opportunity for a movement. We are ready to do all we can to eliminate systems that have stripped Black people of their rights, power, and opportunity – and to create true and lasting equity and inclusion. We hope you will partner with us on the journey.”

REHEARSALS

What should I bring to each rehearsal?

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

Printed Music

All music distributed throughout the season is the property of GTCYS and must be returned at the end of the season – no exceptions. Parts are reused from season to season – you may be playing from a part that was used in the first GTCYS season in 1972!

GTCYS members are responsible for the condition of their music and folder and will be charged a minimum of \$5 per part if music is lost or willfully damaged. If parts are damaged during the season through normal usage (broken spine, loose pages) please contact your Rehearsal Assistant or GTCYS' librarian directly so that the part can be properly repaired or replaced if necessary.

All members are required to bring their own pencil and eraser to every rehearsal. It is an important part of the orchestral experience to learn how to mark orchestra parts (bowing, breathing marks, articulations, fingerings, tempo changes, etc.). **Lightly mark music with plain pencil only, and never use ink or colored pencils.** Any marks in the music other than plain pencil will result in replacement fees.

Safety

GTCYS' staff is present at all activities, but we cannot always control the presence of outside guests at our host venues. Accordingly, we encourage parents and students to monitor and report any unusual guests or behavior to our staff.

For Percussionists in All Orchestras

All percussionists must bring the following equipment to the first rehearsal of the semester. Percussion equipment for subsequent rehearsals and concerts will be determined by you and your conductor.

- Snare drum with case and stand
- Snare drum sticks
- Timpani mallets (1 pair, felt: general purpose)
- Bell/Xylophone mallets (1 pair: plastic)
- A-440 tuning fork or pitch pipe (Philharmonic and Symphony percussionists should use tuning fork)
- Small black hand towel (for holding mallets on metal stands at rehearsal)

Philharmonic and Symphony percussionists should also bring their own:

- Timpani mallets (at least 2 pairs, including general purpose and staccato)
- Yarn mallets (1 pair, general purpose)
- Triangle beaters
- Wire brushes (if needed)

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

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

Rehearsal Schedule & Locations

Monday Rehearsals		
Philharmonia West	6:30 – 8:00pm	Edina Senior Center, 5280 Grandview Square, Edina
Sinfonia West	6:30 – 8:00pm	Wooddale Church, 5532 Wooddale Avenue, Edina
Concertino West	7:00 – 8:45pm	Good Samaritan Church, 5730 Grove Street, Edina
Concert Orchestra	7:00 – 9:00pm	Richfield United Methodist Church, 5835 Lyndale Ave. S, Minneapolis
Philharmonic	7:00 – 9:30pm	Mayflower Church, 106 E Diamond Lake Road, Minneapolis
Symphony	6:45 – 9:15pm	Orchestra Hall*, 1111 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis <i>*A few select rehearsals will take place at alternate venues</i>
Tuesday Rehearsals		
Philharmonia East	6:30 – 8:00pm	St. Matthews Catholic Church, 510 Hall Ave, St. Paul
Sinfonia East	6:30 – 8:00pm	Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran, 1669 Arcade Street, St. Paul
Camerata	7:00 – 8:45pm	Wooddale Church, 5532 Wooddale Avenue, Edina
Thursday Rehearsals		
Concertino East	7:00 – 8:45pm	Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran, 1669 Arcade Street, St. Paul

SUMMARY OF GTCYS' COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

Updated October 5, 2021 with future updates likely

Given the unique circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic, GTCYS continues to follow principles and protocols to aid in mitigating the risk of virus transmission at GTCYS activities. A true spirit of community solidarity is necessary for these policies to be effective: we are all in this together and each student, parent/guardian, and staff has an important part to play to create the safest possible environment for each other. However, no policy can eliminate all risk or guarantee complete safety. Given that every family's health circumstances are unique, and families' comfort level with attending GTCYS activities may change throughout the season, GTCYS will provide a high level of communication, flexibility, and extra care to families as they work to navigate these protocols. Sincere thanks to all our families for understanding the challenges, entrusting us to provide a music experience for students, and complying with these protocols.

GTCYS' Guiding Principles for Planning

- Protect the health and safety of our students, staff, and the GTCYS community
- Sustain our mission to provide accessible, high-quality music education through ensemble experiences
- Support students, parents, and staff with clear policies and transparent communication, and a commitment to adapt with changing circumstances

COVID-19 & Health Details

- **NOTIFYING GTCYS:** Parents/guardians must notify GTCYS immediately if their child has a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 or develop COVID-19-like symptoms by completing the [GTCYS COVID-19 student information form](#). Volunteers must notify GTCYS Program Director Miranda Bryan immediately at miranda@gtcys.org. Employees must notify Executive Director Megen Balda at megen@gtcys.org.
- **HEALTH SCREENING:** Parents/guardians (on behalf of their children), volunteers, and employees must conduct a [self-screening health assessment](#) prior to every GTCYS activity, including weekly rehearsals (this will be conducted with an honor system rather than an online form to submit).
- **ILLNESS/SYMPTOMS:** No one may attend in-person activities if they are ill or have symptoms of any kind, COVID-19-related or otherwise (fever of 100° F or above, sore throat, cough, shortness of breath, new loss of taste or smell, etc.). GTCYS strongly encourages individuals who have any symptoms of illness to get a negative COVID-19 test before returning to in-person GTCYS activities.
- **EXPOSURE:** If a family suspects or has confirmed that their student has been exposed to someone who has COVID-19, they should monitor for symptoms and get one negative test before attending the next in-person GTCYS activity.
- **CONFIRMED CASE:** If a student has a confirmed case of COVID-19, they must complete the following four steps before returning to in-person GTCYS activities:
 1. Report the case to GTCYS using the [GTCYS COVID-19 student information form](#).
 2. Isolate at home for 10 days after the date on which they took the positive COVID-19 test.
 3. Receive one negative test.
 4. Be completely free of all symptoms of illness.
- If an individual experiences COVID-19 symptoms during a GTCYS activity, they must immediately report to onsite staff who will direct that individual to a pre-determined isolated space until transportation home can be arranged.
- GTCYS will support contact tracing efforts through clear and prompt reporting of known COVID-19 to parents/guardians, staff, and program venues, while respecting the privacy of individuals and applicable HIPAA requirements.
- In the event of a confirmed case of COVID-19 within a GTCYS orchestra, quarantines may be required depending on the level of contact and/or rehearsals may move online. These decisions will be further informed by MDH and CDC guidance and will be taken on a case-by-case basis.

- GTCYS has revised the attendance policy to encourage participants to stay home when ill; students will not be penalized for health-related absences this year. See the full attendance policy for details.
- Each rehearsal will be livestreamed so any students who must stay home due to illness, exposure, or an active case of COVID-19 can continue to learn at home.
- GTCYS' leave policies promote employees staying at home when they are sick.

2021-22 Season Details

- **Weekly in-person, full-length rehearsals in full-size orchestras:** students will be spaced out as much as possible in the rehearsal venues.
- **Universal masking is required for all individuals indoors, regardless of vaccination status**
 - Winds and brass may use adaptive masks or regular masks that must be kept on when not playing (instrument covers and bell covers will not be required, though students are welcome to use them if they wish).
 - Conductors will be masked and amplified with a microphone
- **Hygiene & Cleaning Protocols**
 - Upon arrival and before entering the activity space, everyone must sanitize hands (sanitizer provided by GTCYS)
 - All shared orchestra equipment (chairs, percussion instruments, etc.) and high touch points will be disinfected between each use.
 - Everyone must practice proper respiratory etiquette (cover nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing).
 - The use of disposable pads to collect condensation water will be required for all brass players. GTCYS will provide the pads and require students to dispose of the pads at the end of the activity and sanitize their hands immediately thereafter.
 - Food and beverages will not be allowed at program sites, except for bottled water which individuals may bring on their own.
- **Flexible attendance policy for health-related absences:** Students must stay home if they have symptoms of any kind; a [weekly pre-rehearsal self-screening health questionnaire](#) will be used on an honor system (no online health form to submit each week this year).
- **Livestreamed rehearsals will be available for absent students;** there will not be an online-only enrollment track this year.
- **In-person retreats:** Social camaraderie was one of the largest voids last year that families are eager to fill. We are excited to resume our annual fall and winter retreats which will be slightly shorter than pre-COVID retreats, but still full of music-making and social activities.
- **Festival Concerts at Orchestra Hall:** All 10 orchestras will perform at Orchestra Hall this season. GTCYS and audience members will need to follow any [COVID-related guidelines that Orchestra Hall may have in place](#).
- **Community Concerts:** Our typical December concerts at senior care centers, Union Gospel Mission, and other community settings will be postponed until spring.
- **Closed rehearsals:** Our venues will be closed to parents and guests for the start of the year; we hope to adjust this policy as the season progresses.
- **Sectionals:** We look forward to incorporating more sectionals with professional musicians.
- **Spring outlook:** We look forward to adding additional spring performances and wrapping up the season with Spring Festivals and Jupiter at Orchestra Hall on May 14-15, 2022

We will continue to adapt programming as needed while the COVID situation evolves. GTCYS is a community effort, and success also depends on families' commitment to and compliance with our protocols, especially masking and staying home if ill.

GETTING TO REHEARSALS

Carpooling

To facilitate transportation to and from GTCYS activities, families may coordinate carpools to the extent possible, and based on their comfort with carpooling during COVID-19. Carpool lists will be distributed electronically every semester. Families have the option to opt out of the carpool directory in the enrollment form, or by contacting the Program Assistant. GTCYS encourages families to investigate mass transit options for transportation to rehearsals through [Metro Transit](#).

Directions

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

PHILHARMONIA WEST: Mondays, 6:30 – 8:00pm (Grand View Room)
Edina Senior Center, 5280 Grandview Square, Edina, MN 55436

From Highway 62: take Highway 62 (from either direction) and take the MN-100 exit. Go north to take the exit towards Eden Avenue. Merge onto Grange Road, turn right onto Eden Avenue and turn left toward Grandview Square. Turn right onto Grandview Square, and the Edina Senior Center will be on your right.

From the north: Drive south on Highway 100 to the Vernon Avenue Exit. Follow Vernon Avenue west. Turn left on Link Road. Continue straight onto Eden Avenue. Turn right onto Grandview Square, and the Edina Senior Center will be on your right.

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

PHILHARMONIA EAST: Tuesdays, 6:30 – 8:00pm (Luther Hall)
St. Matthews Catholic Church, 510 Hall Ave, St. Paul, MN 55107

From Interstate 94: take Highway 52 south (from either direction) and take the MN-156/Concord St exit from 52 south. Turn right onto Cesar Chavez St. Turn slight left onto George St. E, then right onto Hall Ave. Turn right at W. Robie Street, and it will be on your left

From the south: Take MN-149 N/Dodd Rd and turn right on Baker St. W. Turn left at S Stryker Ave. Turn right onto W. Robie Street, and it will be on your left.

Parking and Entrance: Parking is available on streets around St. Matthew's Church. Enter on the doors at the corner of Hall and W. Robie St.

SINFONIA EAST: Tuesdays, 6:30 – 8:00pm (Luther Hall)
CONCERTINO EAST: Thursdays, 7:00 – 8:45pm (Luther Hall)
Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church, 1669 Arcade Street, Saint Paul, MN 55106
The church is located on Arcade Street just south of Larpenteur Avenue.

From 694 or 36 (either direction): Go south on Hwy. 61, which turns into Arcade Street. Take a right on Idaho Avenue, the church will be on your right.

From I-35E (either direction): Take exit 110A and go east on Larpenteur until it intersects with Arcade. Take a right on Arcade and the first right onto Idaho Avenue, the church will be on your right.

Parking and Entrance: The church has free parking available on the south side of the church, off Idaho Avenue. Enter the building through the south doors.

SINFONIA WEST: Mondays, 6:30 – 8:00pm

CAMERATA: Tuesdays, 7:00 – 8:45pm

Wooddale Church, 5532 Wooddale Avenue, Edina, MN 55424

This is Wooddale Church EDINA CAMPUS, not Wooddale Church Eden Prairie.

From the south: Drive north on Highway 100 to the 50th Street Exit. Take the 50th exit and turn right (east) on to 50th Street. Continue a few blocks and turn right (south) on to Wooddale Ave. Continue to Lexington Street. Turn right on to Lexington into the parking lot.

From the north: Drive south on Highway 100 to the 50th Street Exit. Take the 50th exit and turn left (east) on to 50th Street. Follow the directions from 50th Street above.

From the east or west: Take Highway 62 or 394 to Highway 100 and follow directions above.

Parking: There is a large, free parking lot on the west side of the church by the main entrance. Access lot from Wooddale Avenue.

CONCERT ORCHESTRA: Mondays, 7:00 – 9:00pm

Richfield United Methodist Church, 5835 Lyndale Avenue S, Minneapolis, MN 55419

The church is located on the east side of Lyndale Avenue in Minneapolis, just north of Bachman's.

I-35W Southbound: Take I-35W south. Take the Minnesota 62 west exit. Exit on Lyndale Avenue. Turn right (north) onto Lyndale Avenue. Church will be in the fourth block on the right.

I-35W northbound: Take I-35W north. Take exit 11 for Minnesota 62 west. Slight right onto MN-121. Take the first right onto West 58th Street. Take the first right (south) onto Lyndale Avenue South. Church will be on your left.

Parking: Free parking is available in the church lot, accessible from Lyndale Avenue South.

PHILHARMONIC: Tuesdays, 7:00 – 9:30pm

Mayflower Church, 106 East Diamond Lake Road, Minneapolis, MN 55419

The church is centrally located at the northwest intersection of I-35W and Diamond Lake Road in Minneapolis.

I-35W Southbound: Take I-35W south to Diamond Lake Road Exit. Turn right (west) onto Diamond Lake Road. Church is on the right.

I-35W Northbound: Take I-35W north to Diamond Lake Road Exit. Turn left (west) onto Diamond Lake Road. Cross the bridge over I-35W. Church is on the right.

Parking: Free parking is available in the church lot (accessible from Diamond Lake Road) and on nearby residential streets.

CONCERTINO WEST: Mondays, 7:00 – 8:45pm (Fellowship Hall upstairs)
Good Samaritan Methodist Church, 5730 Grove Street, Edina, MN 55436

From Highway 62: Take Highway 62 (from either direction) and take the Tracy Avenue exit. Go north on Tracy Avenue. After passing Benton Avenue, take a left (heading west) onto Grove Street and proceed until you see the church on your right.

From the north: Drive south on Highway 100 to the Vernon Avenue Exit. Follow Vernon Avenue west as it winds around. Turn left (south) on Tracy Avenue. Take a right (heading west) onto Grove Street and proceed until you see the church on your right.

Parking and Entrance: Park in the upper (west) lot and enter through the double doors. Rehearsals are in the Fellowship Hall on the left.

SYMPHONY: Mondays, 6:45pm – 9:15pm
Orchestra Hall, 1111 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN 55403

[Directions and parking information here](#)

From the east: Take 94W to exit 233A for 11th St. Keep left at the fork and merge onto 11th St. Orchestra Hall will be on your left.

From the west: Take 394E to exit 9A for 12th St. Turn right onto 12th St. Orchestra Hall will be on your left.

Parking and Entrance: Parking is available via on-street metered spots, or there are parking ramps across from Orchestra Hall. Enter through the musician's entrance labeled "Stage Door" located on Marquette Ave, across from the Bolero Flats Apartments.

2021-22 GTCYS SEASON SCHEDULE

Young Soloists Concerto Competition Finals

Saturday, October 30 at 3pm

Antonello Hall, MacPhail Center for Music,
Minneapolis

FALL FESTIVAL CONCERTS

Orchestra Hall, Minneapolis

Saturday, November 13

- 10:30am: Sinfonia East, Concertino West, Philharmonic, Symphony
- 3pm: Philharmonia East, Concertino East, Camerata, Symphony

Sunday, November 14

- 2pm: Philharmonia West, Sinfonia West, Concert Orchestra, Symphony

Tickets available six weeks prior to concert date at

www.minnesotaorchestra.org/gtcys

Symphony Series Concert

Monday, December 20, 7pm

Ted Mann Concert Hall, Minneapolis

Tickets available at least six weeks prior to concert date at buytickets.at/gtcys

Symphony Series Concert

Young Soloists in the Spotlight

Sunday, February 20 at 2pm

Ted Mann Concert Hall, Minneapolis

Tickets available at least six weeks prior to concert date at buytickets.at/gtcys

Spring Community Concerts

Additional concerts February – May 2022, dates TBD

Orchestrating Opportunities Benefit (Symphony)

Saturday, April 16, 5pm

Orchestra Hall, Minneapolis

GTCYS' annual benefit will be an extra special evening in celebration of the 50th Anniversary with food and drinks, music, and auctions to support our programs. Ticket details forthcoming.

SPRING FESTIVAL CONCERTS

Orchestra Hall, Minneapolis

Saturday, May 14

- 1pm: Philharmonia West, Sinfonia West, Concert Orchestra, Symphony
- 4pm: Harmony, Philharmonia East, Concertino East, Camerata, Symphony

Sunday, May 15

- 2pm: Sinfonia East, Concertino West, Philharmonic, Symphony

Tickets available six weeks prior to concert date at

www.minnesotaorchestra.org/gtcys

2022–23 Auditions

Spring 2022, dates TBD

Visit www.gtcys.org/auditions for details

Symphony Concert: Southern Italy Tour Send-Off

June, date TBD

Ted Mann Concert Hall

Symphony Tour to Southern Italy

June 14 – 25, 2022

CONCERT DETAILS

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

CONCERT TICKETS

Most GTCYS concerts are free to attend. Paid ticketed concerts include Festival Concerts at Orchestra Hall, Symphony Concerts, and a few other performances throughout the season. Reduced ticket prices are available for families receiving tuition assistance. School music directors and private lesson teachers can reserve complimentary tickets to GTCYS' paid performances. General details on paid ticketed concerts are below. More ticketing information will be shared prior to a concert's on-sale date. Please contact Morgan May at morgan@gtcys.org for ticketing questions.

Festival Concert Tickets (all orchestras)

- Held at Orchestra Hall and split into separate concerts.
- Prices vary \$8-\$22 by seating section; All seats are reserved.
- Families with students in multiple orchestras who wish to attend two or more concerts can purchase a ticket to multiple concerts for the price of one ticket.
- Tickets usually go on sale six weeks before each concert. Buy online at www.minnesotaorchestra.org/gtcys, call Orchestra Hall's box office at 612.371.5656, or purchase at the door.

Symphony Concert Tickets

- Typically held at Ted Mann Concert Hall, University of Minnesota.
- Prices vary by Adult, Student, and Senior pricing; All seats are general admission.
 - Adult: \$12
 - Student: \$5
 - Senior: \$9
- All non-Symphony GTCYS students receive one free ticket to every Symphony concert.
- Tickets are available at least six weeks prior to the concert at buytickets.at/gtcys, and available for purchase at the door.

Other Paid Concerts

- Held at various venues in the Twin Cities metro area.
- Tickets are \$6; All seats are general admission.
- Tickets are available at least six weeks prior to the concert at buytickets.at/gtcys, and available for purchase at the door.

CONCERT LIVESTREAMS AND RECORDINGS

Several GTCYS concerts are livestreamed for free on [GTCYS' YouTube channel](#) throughout the season. Festival and Symphony Concerts may be professionally livestreamed. Select community concerts may be livestreamed as well. Some performance excerpts may be reposted and available on YouTube at a later time. Audio recordings of Festival and Symphony concerts are available for purchase at www.westmarkproductions.com.

CONCERT ATTIRE

Each orchestra has its own required dress code for concerts. The dress code is designed to be affordable, and inclusive with gender-neutral options. Inappropriate attire may lead to dismissal from a concert. Because students grow out of concert clothes quickly, we encourage families to consider second-hand options. Concert memos emailed prior to every performance will indicate whether “Formal Attire” or “Family Attire” is required.

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

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

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

Formal Attire for Concert Orchestra, Philharmonic, and Symphony

Students wear ALL BLACK. Please note changes from previous seasons.

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

Family Concert Attire

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

- **Top:** Single-color long-sleeve (at least $\frac{3}{4}$ length sleeves) shirt. Any style is satisfactory: button-down, sweater, turtle-neck, blouse, etc. No patterns, words, or logos. Avoid white or black if possible.
- **Bottom:**
 - Long black dress slacks OR floor or ankle-length black skirt (not form-fitting)
 - Black socks or tights (at least mid-calf height, no bare legs or feet)
 - Black dress shoes (no open toes, sandals, or sneakers)

Please contact GTCYS’ Program Director Miranda Bryan at miranda@gtcys.org or 651.602.6807 with questions about concert attire. If purchasing concert attire is financially prohibitive, GTCYS will assist in finding necessary clothing.

Symphony Tour Attire

Concert attire for Symphony’s 2022 international tour will be announced in spring 2022.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES & EXTRA OPPORTUNITIES

School-Year Program This year, more than 700 beginning to advanced students ages 8 – 18 from across the region will participate in one of GTCYS' ten academic-year orchestras and Harmony strings instruction program. Rehearsals are the foundation of students' experience, focusing on the educational process as well as technical and musical skills. GTCYS also provides a social setting where students can feel supported, strive for excellence, and achieve common goals through music. The orchestras, in order of increasing technical proficiency, are:

- Harmony (strings instruction program)
- Philharmonia East and West (strings only)
- Sinfonia East and West
- Concertino East and West
- Camerata
- Concert Orchestra
- Philharmonic
- Symphony

Retreats: Each orchestra has a day-retreat in the fall and winter with extended rehearsal time and social activities which help students to get to know each other and improve their repertoire together. Retreats are an integral part of the orchestra's musical and social experience, and all GTCYS students are highly encouraged to attend; however, attendance will be flexible this year to accommodate families' comfort levels with COVID. [Students must register and pay the retreat fee in advance.](#)

Open Rehearsals are a way for GTCYS members to introduce their friends to the GTCYS experience in a play-along setting. Each orchestra typically has an Open Rehearsal in the spring. GTCYS students may bring friends who play orchestral instruments; friends may also attend a different orchestra depending on their ability and comfort level. We will determine in the spring whether Open Rehearsals are possible. Stay tuned for other opportunities to introduce your friends to GTCYS, such as online Q & A's with conductors and staff.

Concerto Competition: GTCYS' Young Soloists Concerto Competition is an annual opportunity for any current GTCYS musician to showcase their individual talents. Contestants prepare a concerto or solo work, record a video with piano accompaniment for professional judges in the preliminary round, and receive educational feedback about their performance. Selected finalists perform in a free public recital with a collaborative pianist. From that round, one or two winners will be selected to perform in concert with GTCYS' flagship orchestra, Symphony, and Artistic Director Mark Russell Smith. [Click here to learn more and to register to compete.](#)

- Applications are due Friday, October 15: [Register here](#)
- Preliminary Round: Videos accepted through Friday, October 15, 2021
- Finals Round: Saturday, October 31 at 3:00pm at Antonello Hall, MacPhail Center for Music, Minneapolis
- Winner's performance with Symphony: Sunday, February 20, 2022, at 2:00pm, Ted Mann Concert Hall, Minneapolis

Student Volunteer Opportunities (optional and encouraged) GTCYS offers opportunities for GTCYS students to contribute to their own musical and personal progress and enrich the success of their orchestras and their communities. Students may [sign up for volunteer opportunities online.](#) If you have your own volunteer ideas, let us know!

- **Chamber Musician:** you are a member of a chamber music ensemble which is interested in performing at special events.
- **Student Musicologist** (all students): research a piece your orchestra is working on and share it with audiences at concerts.
- **Audition Aide** (grades 9–12): greet and check-in students at auditions (spring, summer or December).
- **Social Coordinator:** welcome new students at rehearsals, help with new-student orientation, and plan your orchestra's social activities.

- **Donor/Volunteer Recognition Assistant:** write thank you letters and/or make thank you calls to donors and volunteers.
- **Library Aide** (grades 8–12): assist GTCYS' Librarian with music preparation and filing in the office (copying, cleaning, and counting out parts).

Ambassadors (All Orchestras): Student Ambassadors are invited to share a presentation about GTCYS with their school orchestra or band in February 2022. This program is an opportunity for any GTCYS student enrolled in school orchestra or band programs to develop communication skills, demonstrate pride as an orchestral musician, and help peers understand the value of GTCYS' programs. Details and registration form forthcoming.

Student Mentors: Philharmonic and Symphony students can apply to serve as mentors for Philharmonia East, Sinfonia East, Concertino East, and Camerata. By rehearsing and demonstrating in a side-by-side capacity at rehearsals, mentors enhance younger students' educational experience and deepen their own learning. Applications and program details are forthcoming. Contact Program Director Miranda Bryan at miranda@gtcys.org or 651.602.6807 with any questions.

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

Mentors from the University of Minnesota: Through this partnership between GTCYS' Symphony and the University of Minnesota's School of Music, graduate students provide vital leadership at Symphony rehearsals, serve as role models, enhance students' learning experience, and gain valuable training in the process.

Summer Orchestras: GTCYS offers students an opportunity to keep playing in the summer. [Program details will be announced online in spring 2022.](#)

Harmony: In fall 2016, GTCYS launched Harmony, an after-school strings instruction program for third graders at Riverview Elementary School in St. Paul's West Side neighborhood. Now entering its sixth year in 2021, Harmony provides violin and cello instruction with up to 60 third, fourth, and fifth graders three days a week before school. Designed to be highly accessible, Harmony provides small and large group instruction, instruments, performance opportunities including at Orchestra Hall, and summer activities. Harmony creates an entry point and pathway for students to continue their musical journey with GTCYS. Each year, Harmony alumni are welcomed into GTCYS' Philharmonia East orchestra. From there and with continued support for lessons, instruments, and tuition assistance, Harmony alumni will have the opportunity to advance through GTCYS' orchestras, building valuable skills to help them succeed in school and beyond.

The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra Partnership: In 2011, The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra and GTCYS formed a unique strategic partnership. Our organizations share resources, ideas, and creativity to produce an array of audience development initiatives and artistic opportunities for the benefit of GTCYS students and the greater community. On an annual basis, we promote the powerful concept of kids performing for kids by co-producing a GTCYS Free Family Concert for the community. We strive to deepen the relationship between SPCO's professional musicians and GTCYS students through up-close SPCO chamber music performances, question and answer sessions, and meet and greets during GTCYS Night Out events at SPCO concerts. GTCYS and the SPCO recently began to synchronize efforts to partner with and provide musical experiences on Saint Paul's West Side, including GTCYS' Harmony program. Together, we are working to strengthen our community, build future audiences, provide educational opportunities for students, and promote the value of classical music. While the pandemic may temporarily limit the extent of in-person partnership activities, we anticipate robust collaborations to resume in the future and will pursue other creative measures in the meantime.

EXPECTATIONS & CONDUCT

GTCYS' culture welcomes students and celebrates families of all backgrounds. With students' and parents/guardians' participation, together we create an environment that is safe, respectful, diverse, equitable, and anti-racist. By understanding and abiding by GTCYS' expectations and upholding high standards of conduct, students help to create a positive experience for themselves and their fellow students and a healthy learning community.

Please read the following carefully and inform your conductor, rehearsal assistant, or GTCYS staff of any concerns or questions. Individual and collective success depend on students' actions and positive contributions.

Students, GTCYS expects you to:

- Be kind and considerate to one another and challenge yourself to be a supportive peer. Think about how your words and actions may be perceived by others. If you have said or done something that may be perceived as hurtful, racist, prejudiced, or discriminatory, apologize and work to be better.
- Be upstanders to help create and support an inclusive and anti-racist community. If you notice others being disrespectful, tell a GTCYS conductor or Rehearsal Assistant.
- Be an engaged member of the musical community: listen and participate attentively during rehearsals and practice your part at home. Ask questions and seek to improve for your sake and the sake of your orchestra. Attend your GTCYS rehearsals regularly and avoid scheduling events or activities which conflict with your GTCYS commitments.
- Be a good steward of the rehearsal space: Keep food (including gum) and drinks out of rehearsal and performance spaces. Students may eat and drink in designated areas only during rehearsal breaks.
- Stay home when you are sick with symptoms of any kind to help protect your orchestra community from the spread of COVID-19, and follow any all COVID-related policies set by GTCYS and/or its program venues.

Inclusivity: GTCYS prohibits discrimination with regard to race, ethnicity, color, religion, national origin, citizenship status, migrant, immigrant, and refugee status, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, and mental or physical abilities. Each student's gender identify will be respected, and the student's preferred name and pronoun will be used. As we strive to create an equitable and inclusive program for all, we encourage every member of the immediate GTCYS community (students, parents/guardians, staff) to help by identifying and challenging individual or systemic acts of racism and other forms of discrimination if they arise.

Bullying and Harassment: GTCYS strictly prohibits bullying or harassment of any kind. GTCYS will investigate, respond to, remediate, and discipline any reported acts of bullying. Students who have been bullied or harassed, or individuals who have witnessed another member of the GTCYS community being bullied or harassed, should immediately inform the conductor. If the individual does not wish to communicate with the conductor for any reason, the individual should contact GTCYS' Program Director or Executive Director.

Drugs: The distribution, possession and/or un-prescribed use of narcotics, alcohol, cigarettes, and other controlled substances by members is unlawful and strictly forbidden. Any violation will lead to disciplinary review, including probation or dismissal.

Probation and Dismissal: A musician may be put on probation or dismissed from GTCYS at the discretion of the conductor and/or Executive Director for reasons including, but not limited to: lack of musical preparedness, behavior/conduct concerns such as, but not limited to: non-compliance with COVID-19 risk mitigation protocols, bullying, harassment, vandalism, theft, use of illegal substances, violence, the possession of a weapon, or any behavior that undermines the integrity of the organization.

Positive ambassadorship: GTCYS members represent the GTCYS community at all times, whether at rehearsals, retreats, concerts, special events, or on tour. All participating musicians are representatives of the organization, and the behavior of each musician reflects upon the entire group. We are guests at our rehearsal and performance venues.

Attendance: Consistent attendance is the cornerstone of GTCYS' orchestras' commitment to excellence; however, taking care of our community's health amidst the pandemic is of greater importance. [Prior to every GTCYS activity, students must complete a health self-screening survey.](#) In the event of symptoms or illness of any kind, students must stay home. Please see the detailed COVID-19 Protocols and Attendance Policy for more details and bookmark the health screening & absence form for easy access: gtcys.org/attendance-and-health-screening

Musical Preparation: Coming to rehearsals prepared is essential for you and your fellow musicians' success. This includes bringing your music, a pencil, music stand, and all necessary accessories (e.g. reeds, rock stops, mallets) to every GTCYS activity, working with your teacher on difficult passages, and practicing and learning your part outside of rehearsal. Home practice is to learn your own part and rehearsals are for learning everyone else's part. As a general guideline, devote at least 10 minutes of dedicated practice to your GTCYS music daily. Conductors will refer to this concept as the "GTCYS 10" throughout the season.

Cell Phones: Cell phones are prohibited during all GTCYS activities except at breaks or if otherwise asked by a GTCYS conductor, such as times where select students may be allowed to use tuning apps on their phones. Cell phones will be confiscated if used at inappropriate times. Repeated violations may lead to probation or dismissal without refund.

Instrument Liability: Students are responsible for the safety and care of their own instruments and accessories during all GTCYS activities. Lost, stolen, or damaged instruments/accessories are not GTCYS' responsibility. Should any damage occur to a student's instrument during a GTCYS activity, the involved student(s) must notify the Rehearsal Assistant immediately. GTCYS staff will inform the parents/guardians about the incident to the extent of GTCYS' knowledge and share parents' contact information so they may work together to resolve the issue. The conductor and GTCYS staff may schedule a meeting with the students' parents to determine restorative actions. GTCYS strongly encourages all members to insure their instruments. Students should keep instruments in their cases when they are not rehearsing and maintain great care around other students.

Participation in School Band and Orchestra Programs: GTCYS and schools share a common goal of educating student musicians; GTCYS supplements and does not replace school music programs. Though we cannot make it mandatory, GTCYS strongly encourages its members to actively participate in school band and orchestra programs. If a school band or orchestra concert conflicts with a GTCYS event, GTCYS students should prioritize their commitment to their school ensemble and notify GTCYS as soon as the conflict is known.

Payment and Refunds: GTCYS families must pay all tuition and fees by the deadlines outlined in the enrollment form. Special payment plans can be arranged if flexibility is needed: Contact katie@gtcys.org with questions about payments.

Refund policy

- Tuition refunds will not be issued after September 24, 2021 for first semester and January 21, 2022 for second semester.
- A student who withdraws from the program for any reason before the dates listed above will receive a pro-rated refund for that semester, less a \$75 withdrawal fee and any other non-refundable fees.
- Families who have paid in full for the entire year and withdraw during first semester will receive a refund for second semester, less a \$75 withdrawal fee and other non-refundable fees.
- Sibling discounts will be recalculated for withdrawing siblings.
- Retreat, processing, and credit card fees are non-refundable.

ATTENDANCE POLICY AND HEALTH SCREENING

REVISED POLICY FOR 2021-22: Please note that this policy has been revised for the 2021-22 season due to the special circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic. In a typical year, GTCYS students are allowed to miss up to two rehearsals per concert cycle (typically 2-3 cycles per season), and attendance at concerts and retreats is required. We anticipate shifting back to a more structured policy in the future. Consistent attendance is the cornerstone of GTCYS' orchestras' commitment to excellence; however, taking care of our community's health is of greater importance. Students will not be penalized for health-related absences.

WHEN HEALTHY, GTCYS members should make every effort to participate in all GTCYS activities, including rehearsals, retreats, and concerts. Please do your best to honor your commitment to your orchestra and not to schedule events and activities which conflict with your GTCYS rehearsals or performances. GTCYS members are all responsible for knowing the time commitment for their orchestra. Subscribe to your orchestra's calendar here: [GTCYS Orchestra Calendars](#).

Health Screening: Prior to every in-person GTCYS activity (rehearsals, retreats, concerts) students must answer a [self-screening health questionnaire](#). **In the event of symptoms or illness of any kind,** COVID-19-related or otherwise (fever of 100° F or above, sore throat, cough, shortness of breath, new loss of taste or smell, etc.), or in the case of a suspected or confirmed active case of COVID-19, **students must stay home.**

When to stay home and requirements for returning to rehearsals:

1. If a family suspects that their student has been exposed to someone confirmed to have COVID-19, they should monitor for symptoms and **have two negative tests** before coming to the next rehearsal.
2. If a student has a confirmed case of COVID-19, they should **isolate at home for 10 days and have two negative tests** and have no symptoms before returning to GTCYS.

What happens when GTCYS students need to be absent?

1. Complete the [GTCYS Absence Form](#) as soon as you are aware that you will miss a GTCYS activity for any reason. Anticipating accurate attendance is crucial for conductors to effectively plan their rehearsals.
2. If the absence is related to COVID-19, students must immediately inform miranda@gtcys.org and complete the [COVID-19 Student Information Form](#) to inform GTCYS of the details of their case or exposure.
3. If students accrue multiple absences, they may be asked to record and submit short passages from the orchestra's music to demonstrate their progress and musical understanding to their conductors despite absences. GTCYS staff and conductors will work with each family on a case-by-case basis to address attendance.

Prioritizing School Band and Orchestra Concerts: When school band or orchestra concerts conflict with GTCYS activities, students should prioritize their school ensemble commitment over GTCYS. Please remember to inform GTCYS of the conflict as soon as possible.

Promptness: To ensure adequate time for set-up, warm-up, and tuning, all students must be present and seated at least 15 minutes before the beginning of each rehearsal. GTCYS' conductors will begin rehearsal promptly by the listed rehearsal start time.

Weather cancellations: Cancellations due to weather are rare—please assume a GTCYS activity will continue unless you hear otherwise. In the event of weather which might result in unsafe conditions, GTCYS will email families and post the notification on the affected orchestra's calendar at gtcys.org/calendar. Decisions regarding cancellations will be made by 1:00pm. It is parents' responsibility to check their email and GTCYS' website for an announcement. Online instruction may replace live instruction in the case of weather cancellations.

Students' health and safety is always our highest priority at GTCYS. We are aware that families come from across the region for GTCYS activities. Families should use their best judgement regarding travel and attendance.

GTCYS SEATING POLICIES & PART ASSIGNMENTS

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

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

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

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

Strings:

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

Woodwinds, Brass, and Percussion:

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

CONCERTINO EAST & WEST, CAMERATA, CONCERT ORCHESTRA, PHILHARMONIC, AND SYMPHONY

In a typical year, these orchestras conduct periodic seating auditions for string players. Auditioning is an important skill and adds to students’ improvement and preparation in GTCYS’ more advanced orchestras. For the current season, students may be required to record seating audition videos and submit via the [Seating Audition Video Submission form](#) according to audition date guidelines. Seating audition dates and details will be determined throughout the year.

Strings:

- At the beginning of the season, string players will be seated according to their GTCYS placement audition scores.
- Two weeks before each seating audition date (listed on the orchestra’s online calendar), the conductor will announce selected excerpts from the repertoire for string students to prepare.
- Students will record these excerpts by the specified seating audition date and submit via the [Seating Audition Video Submission form](#).
- Students who do not send a recording on time and in the correct format will not have the opportunity to be assessed again until the next audition.

- Seating audition judges will assess each student and provide brief written feedback which the students will receive at the next rehearsal.
- The conductor will use the judges' assessments to determine specific seating. Other factors including student behavior may be taken into consideration.
- It is possible that some violinists may switch between first and second parts during the year.

Woodwinds, Brass, and Percussion:

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

TUITION & TUITION ASSISTANCE

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

Orchestra	Annual Tuition	Retreat Fee (per retreat)*
Philharmonia East	\$750	\$50
Philharmonia West	\$750	\$50
Sinfonia East	\$810	\$50
Sinfonia West	\$810	\$50
Concertino East	\$890	\$50
Concertino West	\$890	\$50
Camerata	\$910	\$50
Concert Orchestra	\$945	\$50
Philharmonic	\$1,010	\$50
Symphony	\$1,130	\$50

Families may pay in full or with an eight-month installment plan (August – March). If neither option suits your family's needs, email GTCYS' Program Assistant Katie Heilman at katie@gtcys.org – we are happy to work with you to create a suitable option.

If paying in full with a credit card, there is a \$15 processing fee. If paying in installments, there is a one-time \$30 processing fee.

***Retreat fee:** This year, families will pay the retreat fee upon registering for the retreats. The GTCYS office will email retreat registration information to families a few weeks before each retreat. There will be two retreats – one in the fall, and one in early winter. Reduced retreat fees are available for families who qualify for need-based tuition assistance.

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

Tuition and Fees for Students Joining Mid-Year: Tuition amounts are adjusted for students starting in January.

Donations: As a non-profit organization, charitable contributions from GTCYS families, alumni, and the community create meaningful experiences for students and expand access for young musicians from all backgrounds. Unlike many other extracurricular programs, we will never ask families to sell goods or directly fundraise. Going above and beyond with a charitable gift directly supports your own child's experience and helps provide more than \$100,000 in tuition assistance so that students can experience the lifelong benefits of a GTCYS education. To make a tax-deductible gift, visit gtcys.org/donate. Thank you!

Tuition Assistance

We are deeply committed to access and equity so all interested students can benefit from the GTCYS experience regardless of ability to pay. Assistance for tuition and private lessons is based on demonstrated financial need using a confidential application process.

Given the impact of COVID-19, GTCYS is expanding tuition assistance to meet increased demand for the 2021-22 season. We encourage all families experiencing financial hardship to apply, especially if cost is a determining factor for participation.

Tuition Assistance at a glance:

- Tuition assistance is offered for all of GTCYS' programs including school-year orchestras, summer programs, tours, and special activities; private lesson assistance is also awarded each year (see below).
- Awards are based on a sliding scale, which considers household income, number of children living at home, and special circumstances such as job loss, health crises, and unexpected expenses.
- **Families who qualify for tuition assistance typically include:**
 - Families who qualify for the Federal Free or Reduced-Price School Meals program may typically pay 3%-10% of GTCYS tuition/fees.
 - Families who report gross adjusted incomes of \$80,000 or less may typically pay 50-75% of GTCYS tuition/fees. Extenuating circumstances are considered even for higher income levels, and award amounts may fluctuate year to year based on demand.
- More than 120 students typically receive tuition assistance for GTCYS' programs each year.
- We anticipate awarding \$100,000 in tuition assistance for our 2021-22 programs.
- Families with multiple children in GTCYS may complete one application for all children
- Customized payment plans are available for all GTCYS families upon request, regardless of tuition assistance status.

To complete GTCYS' Tuition Assistance Application, you'll need the following items:

- **If possible:** Copy of your last year's Federal income tax return (form 1040) or similar income verification.
- **If applicable:** Written verification from your school district of your Free or Reduced Price School Meals program status.
- **If applicable:** Documentation that verifies unemployment
- **Statement of Financial Need:** A brief letter describing your circumstances and need for tuition assistance.
- [Click here to apply for tuition assistance](#)

Accessibility and Inclusivity at GTCYS

To provide more comprehensive support, we also provide:

- **Sponsored Lessons:** GTCYS students who receive tuition assistance may apply for this program, which matches students with a private teacher for weekly half-hour lessons paid by GTCYS.
- **Reduced-Price Concert Tickets:** Although most GTCYS concerts are free, families who receive tuition assistance can purchase reduced-price tickets to ticketed performances.
- **Concert Attire:** If purchasing concert attire is financially prohibitive, GTCYS will assist in finding necessary clothing.
- **Reduced-Price Audition Fee:** A \$5 option (instead of the regular \$40 fee) is available on the registration form for families who need it.

- **Activity Fees:** Lower priced options are available for extra GTCYS activities, such as orchestra social events, day trips, and special projects.
- **Tour Assistance:** Assistance is available for Symphony’s biennial international tours using an application process.

REFUND POLICY

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

1. Inform their conductor and the Program Director in writing via email
2. Return the student’s music and folder to GTCYS

Refund policy

- Tuition refunds will not be issued after September 24, 2021 for first semester and January 21, 2022 for second semester.
- A student who withdraws from the program for any reason before the dates listed above will receive a pro-rated refund for that semester, less a \$75 withdrawal fee and any other non-refundable fees.
- Families who have paid in full for the entire year and withdraw during first semester will receive a refund for second semester, less a \$75 withdrawal fee and other non-refundable fees.
- Sibling discounts will be recalculated for withdrawing siblings.
- Retreat, processing, and credit card fees are non-refundable.

Please contact the GTCYS’ Program Assistant Katie Heilman at katie@gtcys.org or 651.602.6803 for payment plan details, including amounts, payment dates, and updating your information.

OTHER

School Music Programs and Private Lessons

GTCYS’ programs are designed to complement – not substitute – other vital forms of music instruction. GTCYS students are strongly encouraged to participate in and serve as leaders in their school music programs where available. Given the need for individualized instruction to further musical growth, students are also strongly encouraged to take private lessons. Students encountering financial challenges are encouraged to contact GTCYS to consult on lower-priced private lessons.

Sponsored Lessons

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

Change of Personal Information

It is each student’s responsibility to contact katie@gtcys.org if their contact information (email, address, phone number) changes. GTCYS’ inability to contact a student due to out-of-date or incorrect information is not a valid reason for a student to miss a GTCYS activity, whether regularly scheduled or not.

Change of Private Teacher or School

Please inform us if you change private music teachers or schools. We recognize private teachers, school names and school music directors in our program books and would like to maintain an accurate list. Send any changes to katie@gtcys.org.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Due to the COVID pandemic, parents and guests will not be allowed in rehearsal spaces this fall. We look forward to relaxing that policy when possible and appreciate everyone's understanding.

Volunteering: GTCYS greatly appreciates volunteers, both GTCYS parents and members of the broader community, who provide valuable assistance at concerts, retreats, special events, with day-to-day tasks, special activities, and fundraising. In-person volunteers will need to comply by COVID-19 safety protocols, such as masking and hand-sanitizing, as communicated by the GTCYS office. Please refer to the [GTCYS Volunteer Handbook](#) for more information on how to volunteer with GTCYS. We appreciate all our volunteers and will send information on volunteer opportunities as these opportunities arise. It is a meaningful way to be involved, meet other parents, and make a difference for students. Parents may [sign up for volunteer opportunities online](#) or contact GTCYS' Program Assistant Katie Heilman at katie@gtcys.org for more information.

Parent Captains: Each orchestra has a designated Parent Captain who works with the staff and recruits other parents to coordinate orchestra social activities. In a typical year, these activities include treat nights, food social nights, and other orchestra activities. While we do not anticipate holding any food-related events this fall due to COVID-19, we are working on social opportunities that are safe and socially-distanced. Parent Captains are also valuable sources of information should you have any questions. Parent Captains will be determined during the fall, and they will begin their roles in the second semester, pending any changes in restrictions related to COVID-19. If you are interested in serving as a GTCYS Parent Captain, please contact GTCYS' Program Assistant Katie Heilman at katie@gtcys.org.

Parent etiquette at GTCYS events: Parents are normally welcome to observe regular rehearsals if space allows. To create a productive rehearsal environment, parents should not interact with their child or the conductor while the rehearsal is underway. Retreats and dress rehearsals are closed to parents and the public with the exception of volunteers who have signed up to help in advance.

Staying Informed: We rely on parents to help ensure that students fulfill their GTCYS commitment, and it is critical for parents to stay informed. Because GTCYS only uses electronic forms of communication, parents must subscribe to their child's [online GTCYS calendar](#), regularly check and read emails, and visit the website. Please set your spam filter to allow emails from GTCYS' staff and info accounts, as well as Mailchimp. Look for weekly emails from your conductor in addition to GTCYS' monthly News Notes for important updates. After rehearsal each week, parents should also ask students for any information that was shared. If you are not receiving regular communications from GTCYS, please contact Katie Heilman at katie@gtcys.org to ensure that we have the correct contact information on file.

Be a GTCYS Ambassador and spread the word: Families are our best representatives! Your words of support to friends, family, and colleagues help get the word out about GTCYS. You can spread the word by inviting friends or families to attend concerts, encouraging other families with musical children to consider joining GTCYS, sharing our news on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), or [LinkedIn](#), and advocating the value of music education to school officials.

Parent Gatherings: GTCYS strives to maintain open and ongoing communication with parents and guardians. Once or twice during the year, parents are invited to gather with members of GTCYS' staff and/or Board of Directors to socialize, learn more about what's going on at GTCYS, and ask questions. Details will be shared separately.

Your support matters. As a non-profit organization, GTCYS relies on charitable contributions to create meaningful experiences for students and expand access for young musicians from all backgrounds. Unlike many other extracurricular programs, we will never ask families to sell goods or directly fundraise. Because tuition only covers about half the actual cost of participation, going above and beyond with a charitable gift directly supports your own child's experience. Contributions also help provide more than \$100,000 in tuition assistance so that all GTCYS students can experience the lifelong benefits of a GTCYS education. To make a tax-deductible gift, visit www.gtcys.org/donate. Thank you!

RELEASE AND INDEMNIFICATION AGREEMENT

GTCYS requires a parent/guardian of every GTCYS student to complete the following release and indemnification agreement, which is embedded in the online enrollment form. The text is included here for families' reference.

GTCYS Release and Indemnification Agreement 2021-22

RE: _____
FULL NAME OF STUDENT

THIS RELEASE AND INDEMNIFICATION AGREEMENT (the "Agreement") is entered into between me and the Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphonies ("GTCYS") in connection with the **2021 – 2022 GTCYS Season**.

I, the parent and/or legal guardian of the student above, wish to have my student participate in GTCYS programs during the 2021 – 2022 academic year. I acknowledge that although GTCYS is taking steps to promote the health and safety of students, there are still risks of having my student participate, including the risk of contracting and spreading COVID-19. I have been given sufficient opportunity to ask questions and obtain information about the programs and measures being taken to promote health and safety. I understand that my student is free to withdraw from participation at any time. My contact information is below.

RELEASE & INDEMNIFICATION AGREEMENT

I, the parent and/or guardian, agree that at my sole cost and expense, I will release and indemnify, protect and hold GTCYS harmless against and from any and all damages, losses, liabilities, obligations, claims, costs and expenses (including, without limitation, attorney fees and court costs) of any kind or any nature whatsoever arising in whole or in part out of my child's participation in GTCYS during the 2021 – 2022 season. I enter into this Agreement without reservation of any kind except for liabilities arising out of any intentional wrongful acts on the part of GTCYS, its directors and employees.

This Agreement shall be binding upon the parent(s) or guardian(s) whose signature(s) appear(s) below and their respective assigns, and inures to the benefit of GTCYS, and its successors and assigns.

This Agreement shall in all respects be governed by, and construed and enforced in accordance with, the laws of the State of Minnesota.

Signature of Parent or Guardian Date

Signature of Parent or Guardian Date

Cell phone of Parent or Guardian

POLICY FOR CHILD PROTECTION

The Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphonies (“GTCYS”) seeks to ensure that young musicians who participate in any GTCYS programs may do so without fear of abuse. GTCYS seeks to create an environment of awareness and prevention, where those involved in administering GTCYS programs act in a manner that minimizes any opportunities for abuse to occur, and where allegations that may arise are addressed promptly and appropriately.

Therefore, we, the Board of Directors of GTCYS, reaffirm this Policy for Child Protection this 29th day of October, 2019.

Policy for Child Protection

1. Employees, contractors and volunteers of GTCYS who regularly work with children must meet the following qualifications:
 - Successfully clear a criminal background check review upon appointment and approximately every 2 years thereafter; and
 - Review, agree to abide by, and sign this policy; and
 - Be interviewed by the Executive Director.

The Executive Director will review all positions and identify those that must meet some or all of the above qualifications. Those positions that are subject to these prerequisites include, but are not limited to, conductors, regular coaches, specialists, tour chaperones, and interns. GTCYS employees, contractors, and volunteers may also be required to participate in training sessions.

2. Short-term personnel, contractors or volunteers for whom it is not practicable to complete a criminal background check must review and agree to abide by this policy. Any such individuals should be supervised by a GTCYS representative who has met the full qualifications set forth in Section 1 above.
3. For the protection of GTCYS, its students, and its staff, volunteers and contractors, individuals who work with GTCYS students will avoid potentially compromising situations in which abuse could occur and/or an allegation of abuse could arise. GTCYS promotes a “Rule of Three” culture where staff, volunteers and contractors are encouraged to avoid situations where one child is alone with one staff, volunteer or contractor.

When performing work on behalf of GTCYS, staff, contractors and volunteers should avoid situations where they are alone with a single child (unless the GTCYS staff, contractor or volunteer is the child’s parent). If situations arise when this is not possible (e.g., a parent is late to pick up a student after rehearsal and there are no other GTCYS representatives or students present), then the staff, contractor or volunteer should take precautions to remain in an open public area with the child. GTCYS staff, contractors and volunteers should avoid situations where they are alone with a single child behind closed doors or in an isolated and private location.

4. Minors involved in coaching other students will be supervised to confirm they are acting in a manner consistent with this policy including leading any instruction in a rehearsal space or area equipped with a window or open door.
5. With the exception of activities involving their own children or other relatives, or apart from conducting official GTCYS business, employees, contractors and volunteers of GTCYS should not instigate or maintain a personal relationship with any GTCYS student in any form including on any social media platforms. All contact with GTCYS students outside of rehearsals, performances, tours or other GTCYS’ events should be initiated through the student’s parent/guardian so that the parent/guardian is aware of the circumstances surrounding the communications.

6. GTCYS staff, volunteers and contractors should examine rehearsal, retreat, concert and other venues for GTCYS programs and activities to address potential areas of concern including areas with doors that lock; doors that do not have windows that would permit individuals outside to view activities inside the room; dark, out-of-the-way places, such as remote staircases; and areas created to promote privacy such as restrooms, bathing facilities, changing rooms and locker rooms. Windows to rooms should remain uncovered. When appropriate, doors should remain propped open. GTCYS staff, volunteers and contractors are encouraged to engage in “drop-ins” to ensure that the letter and spirit of this policy is being observed and promoted.
7. Any GTCYS student, parent, employee, contractor or volunteer who knows or suspects that a student has been subjected to physical or sexual abuse in connection with a GTCYS program or activity should report the incident to the student’s conductor, or the Executive Director. GTCYS staff, contractors and volunteers may be required by law to report any known or suspected abuse or neglect of a GTCYS student to law enforcement and/or child protection services, and these GTCYS representatives are strongly encouraged to contact law enforcement and/or child protection services if they become aware of known or suspected abuse or neglect.
8. In the event that GTCYS receives an allegation of abuse of a child 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 conduct an appropriate investigation into the matter and, if appropriate, involve law enforcement and/or child protection services. GTCYS reserves the right to take interim protective measures to ensure the safety of GTCYS’ students while an investigation is pending. GTCYS will strive to conduct its investigation in a manner that respects the privacy and confidentiality of the individuals involved in the investigation.
9. In addition to prohibiting abuse of minors, this policy prohibits any retaliation against employees, contractors, volunteers, students and parents/guardians for making a good faith report under this policy and for participating in an investigation into allegations of abuse.
10. This policy will be disseminated to all parents and students in the students’ handbooks. It will also be presented to GTCYS employees, contractors and volunteers (including members of GTCYS’ Board of Directors) annually.

ADA ACCESS STATEMENT AND PLAN

I. ORGANIZATIONAL POLICY STATEMENT

In keeping with the goals of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphonies (GTCYS) is committed to ensuring that its programs are accessible to the broadest range of Minnesotans with disabilities. It is GTCYS’ Board-approved policy to provide equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from our programs and services for all individuals regardless of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, marital status, sex (including pregnancy), sexual orientation, gender identity, age, disability, status with regard to public assistance, veteran status, genetic information, or other characteristic protected by law.

II. DEVELOPMENT OF THIS PLAN

- In 2012, we conducted a self-evaluation of our ADA compliance using Metropolitan Regional Arts Council’s Arts Accessibility Planning Guide. Through this evaluation, we identified areas of improvement and implemented changes to make our programs more accessible, including providing large print programs at concerts and adding accessibility symbols to promotional materials.
- In 2013, Program Manager Miranda Bryan became the designated Access Coordinator, overseeing this plan and assessing needs and services on an ongoing basis.

- Access is reviewed annually and incorporated to all aspects of program planning; adaptations are made as needed and input from GTCYS' stakeholders (especially those with physical and emotional disabilities) helps inform our actions.

III. WAYS IN WHICH FACILITIES, PROGRAMS, AND SERVICES ARE CURRENTLY ACCESSIBLE TO PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Facilities, Programs, and Services – Orchestra Rehearsals: GTCYS does not own or operate its own rehearsal facilities. Rather, we rent program space on a seasonal basis. All eight of our regular rehearsal venues are ADA compliant. Venue selections are informed by easy entry and access to the rehearsal room (main floor or elevator access), parking, restroom access. Beyond the physical space, we make reasonable accommodations for any student with disabilities. For example, GTCYS' Librarian has printed musical parts in large format for visually impaired students. GTCYS has also accommodated students with autism spectrum disorders, learning disabilities, anxiety and depression, cerebral palsy, and epilepsy, working with families to ensure these students have quality experiences. Conductors demonstrate special awareness of students with unique learning needs and social differences, accommodating those needs and differences as needed.

We include accessibility wording/symbols regarding program participation on our website.

Facilities, Programs, and Services – Concerts: GTCYS does not currently own or operate its own performance facilities, and we rent or find pro bono spaces each season. GTCYS typically presents 25-30 performances each year, and concert facilities are selected with the overriding goal of providing the greatest access for the community, including accessibility for people with physical disabilities. Sites are ADA compliant and include venues such as Orchestra Hall, Ordway Center, Roseville Lutheran Church, Union Gospel Mission, Hopkins High School, and Humboldt High School. Although primary responsibility for the accessibility of these spaces rests with their owners and operators, GTCYS remains alert to any issues of access that may arise, and works to resolve them. GTCYS will continue to choose sites that are equipped for access for people with physical disabilities (including access to stage, audience seating with designated wheelchair areas, restrooms, sound systems for speaker amplification, etc.).

GTCYS performs at numerous assisted living facilities each year, including and Boutwells Landing, Johanna Shores, and the Veterans Home, bringing music to audiences with limited mobility. Programs are provided in large-print format.

Hearing amplification devices are available at all major concert venues, and since 2013, we provide large-print programs for all concerts. In addition, with ten days' notice, GTCYS will make reasonable accommodations for vision or hearing impaired audience members (i.e. a person to read the program aloud prior to the concert or providing ASL interpretation).

We include accessibility wording/symbols regarding concerts on our website and in our season brochure.