

## **Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphonies – Conductor Opening**

<b>Job Description:</b>	<b>GTCYS Philharmonic Conductor</b>
Reports to:	Artistic Director
Status:	Part-time
Start Date:	August 2022
Salary:	\$18,000 - \$22,000

### **About Philharmonic**

Philharmonic attracts some of the region's finest high school musicians who explore professional-level orchestral works, often including a major symphony in its entirety. In Philharmonic, students advance their technical abilities and develop musical sensitivity to high levels of excellence. As GTCYS' sixth orchestra level, Philharmonic is the peak experience for some high school musicians, while others advance into GTCYS' flagship orchestra, Symphony. Philharmonic string players typically have 7-10 years' experience, and woodwinds, brass, percussion have 5-8 years'. Students are typically in grades 10 – 12, with some younger. GTCYS' orchestras, including Philharmonic, are increasing in racial and ethnic diversity, especially students from Hispanic/Latinx and Black/African American communities. The Philharmonic conductor is responsible for leading the orchestra to develop students' orchestral skills, while instilling lifelong values such as discipline, teamwork, and service. The conductor will be a role model for students and a member of GTCYS' esteemed Artistic Team comprised of 8-9 conductors who lead GTCYS' 10 orchestras. GTCYS is dedicated to breaking down barriers, connecting with underrepresented students in meaningful ways, and including diverse perspectives in our programming. To help our team carry out this important work, we are seeking a conductor with direct experience working with this ability/age level and with various racial and ethnic communities to foster a diverse and inclusive learning environment.

### **About the Role**

The ideal candidate would be an active member of the professional or collegiate music community or instrumental music education field with 5+ years of direct experience working with high-achieving high school or collegiate ensembles. She/he/they would bring to GTCYS an authentic passion for orchestral music education, the skill and energy to inspire young students to the highest artistic level, a commitment to access and inclusion, ability to creatively contribute to GTCYS' artistic vision, and a desire to commit to the position for at least 3 years. This role works in close partnership with GTCYS' artistic director and must have shared musical and pedagogical values, and a willingness to collaborate. The person in this role would also serve as a liaison with the music community, leading school visits and developing relationships with music educators in partnership with GTCYS' staff. This role could also be combined with GTCYS' Sinfonia East conductor opening if skills align.

### **Responsibilities**

- Conduct all Philharmonic activities, including rehearsals (2.5 hour weekly rehearsals, September through May on Monday or Tuesday evenings), retreats, and up to six performances a year, including at Orchestra Hall
- Teach, motivate, and communicate with students in a clear, positive, and respectful manner
- Serve as a positive role model for students and proactively work to create an inclusive, equitable, and respectful environment for students and parents/guardians

- Select repertoire and communicate with GTCYS' music librarian regarding bowings, arrangements, etc.
- Plan an annual special artistic project for the orchestra
- Communicate rehearsal goals to sectional coaches in advance
- Write weekly rehearsal follow-up e-mails to students
- Oversee the Philharmonic Rehearsal Assistant who manages on-site logistics (set up, attendance, etc.)
- Communicate and work collaboratively with GTCYS' administrative staff to plan Philharmonic's schedule of activities (sectionals, concerts, retreats, special projects, social activities, leadership opportunities)
- Assist with auditions and placement of GTCYS students, including serving as an audition judge (spring, August, December)
- Serve as a community liaison, building relationships with local music educators, attending concerts, and serving as a proactive GTCYS ambassador
- Actively assist with recruitment of new GTCYS members by encouraging students to participate, connecting with teachers, and serving as a guest clinician in schools as schedules permit
- Maintain and enhance communication with area instrumental music teachers, parents and other members of the community with an eye towards mutual professional development, problem solving, and maintaining and heightening GTCYS' profile in the music education community
- Serve as a member of the Artistic Team; attend monthly conductor meetings and annual staff retreat
- Communicate and collaborate with Artistic Director on vision, repertoire, and musical goals
- Understand and adhere to GTCYS' Policies and Procedures as set forth in the Student Handbook, in the Child Protection Policy and/or by the Executive and Artistic Directors
- Time commitment: variable, but average 4-8 hours week during the school year

### **Qualifications**

- Post-graduate degree preferred in conducting, music education, and/or performance, or comparable professional experience
- 5+ years of successful conducting and/or teaching experience with collegiate or high school students in a large ensemble setting
- Ability to effectively conduct, teach, inspire, and motivate young students ages 14 – 18 in a full orchestra
- Experience teaching all orchestral instruments, including strings, woodwinds, brass, and percussion
- Excellent communication skills
- Nurturing personality and belief in a student-centric approach
- Ability to work flexibly and creatively with fellow conductors, rehearsal assistants, staff, parents, and volunteers
- Availability to attend evening and weekend activities including two orchestra retreats, auditions and concerts, plus monthly conductor meetings and annual retreat.
- Ability to successfully pass a criminal background check.

GTCYS is dedicated to building an inclusive, culturally diverse, and equitable environment. We encourage qualified applicants to apply, including applicants of color and others with experience working with communities underrepresented in orchestral music.

**To Apply**

By May 1, 2022, email a cover letter, resume, video links of rehearsal and performance footage (preferably with a youth ensemble), and names of three professional references to Executive Director Megen Balda at [megen@gtcys.org](mailto:megen@gtcys.org). Applications will be reviewed upon receipt. The selection process may include screening interviews, in-person interviews, teaching observations, and an in-person audition with GTCYS students on Tuesday evening, May 31.

**About GTCYS**

The Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphonies (GTCYS) opens doors to music learning and provides a pathway for students of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds. As one of the country's leading youth orchestra programs, GTCYS serves more than 1,000 students ages 8-18 through year-round programs which include 10 school-year orchestras, summer camps, and our Harmony strings instruction program for youth underrepresented in orchestra. Started in 2015, GTCYS' equity, diversity, and inclusion initiatives remain a top priority. To increase access, GTCYS awards more than \$140,000 in tuition assistance and support for private lessons. 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. Learn more about GTCYS at [www.gtcys.org](http://www.gtcys.org).

March 2022