



Mission Statement

The Tallahassee Youth Orchestras (TYO) enriches the musical and creative lives of young musicians through high-quality instruction and unique performance opportunities.

2024-2025 Board of Directors

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TYO Ensembles and Programs:

The TYO offers orchestral ensembles designed for students of varying levels of playing ability. Additionally, the TYO offers several chamber music groups. All students are required to provide their own instrument.

Intermezzo Strings Director, Dr. Tian Sanchez-Ballado

Sunday, 1:45-3:15 | \$440 per year

Designed for intermediate-string students. The focus is on intermediate techniques, refined ensemble playing, and the exploration of different musical style periods. Students should be comfortable reading and playing music in first position in the keys of D, G, and C major. Open to all ages.

Comparable levels: ASTA grade level 1.5-2.5 or FOA DS string orchestra literature.

Chamber Orchestra Director, Dr. Kasia Bugaj

Sunday, 2:00-4:00 | \$550 per year

Intermediate to advanced string students learn and refine upper level skills such as spiccato and vibrato. Intermediate to advanced literature is emphasized. Students should be comfortable reading and playing music in first and third positions (with the addition of fourth position for cello, and one-half through fourth position for double bass). Students should also have mastered vibrato through the basic ranges of their instrument, and the production of a variety of dynamics and tone colors.

Comparable levels: ASTA grade level 2.5-3.5 or FOA CS string orchestra literature.

TYO Music Director & Symphony Orchestra Director, Mr. Christopher Miller Assistant Symphony Director, Guilherme Rodrigues

Sunday, 2:00-4:00 | \$660 per year

A full orchestral ensemble including strings, woodwinds, brass, and percussion that performs orchestral literature at the highest level. Students should be comfortable reading and playing music in the practical range of their instrument. Students should also be able to maintain characteristic tone through all dynamic ranges and a wide variety of tone colors.

Comparable levels: ASTA grade level 4-5.5 or FOA AF full orchestra literature.

Small Ensembles

Sunday, 12:45-1:45 |

String Quartets | Woodwind Quintet | Brass Quintet | Percussion Ensemble

Interested students at all levels are eligible to participate in small ensembles. String students indicate their interest during the registration process, and they will be placed in a group appropriate to their level. String ensembles participate in one Small Ensemble concert each semester and may participate in community events or full TYO concerts.

Woodwind, brass and percussion students may participate in small ensembles led by their sectional coach. Students indicate their interest during the registration process. These ensembles participate in one Small Ensemble concert each semester and may participate in community events or full TYO concerts.

| Community Outreach Ensemble |

Students comfortable with ASTA grade level 4 material have the opportunity to participate in the Community Outreach Ensemble. This ensemble rehearses twice during each semester, and then performs in various venues throughout the community, including civic events and elder care facilities. Students who participate satisfactorily can receive community service hours. More information on this program is provided during the season.

2024-2025 TYO Personnel

Chris Miller	Music Director, Symphony Conductor
Dr. Alexander Jiménez	Music Director Laureate
Dr. Kasia Bugaj	Chamber Orchestra Conductor
Dr. Tian Sanchez-Ballado	Intermezzo Strings Conductor
Guilherme Rodrigues	Assistant Symphony Director
Jean-Luc Cataquet Santaella	Violin Coach
Bárbara Santiago	Violin Coach
Keara Henre	Viola Coach
Dr. Zlatina Staykova	Cello Coach & TYO Quartet Coach
José Serrano	Bass Coach
Paul Ebbers	Brass Coach
Josie Whiteis	Woodwind Coach
Jackson Kowalczyk	Percussion Coach
Jeanette Edwards	Executive Director

Auditions:

Auditions are required for all ensembles. If you need assistance in selecting an appropriate ensemble for your child, please email tyodirector@gmail.com. There is a \$15.00 fee for all auditions. Students will not be able to audition without paying the fee.

Current members are required to re-audition each year. Audition material will be posted on the website in mid-March. There will be two audition dates: the third Sunday in May, and an early date in April only for those who have a conflict with the May date. New members who express interest after the May audition date should contact TYO via email at tyodirector@gmail.com to make audition arrangements.

Audition Results and Registration:

Audition results will be posted on our website. Students will have until June 15, 2024, to complete the registration process and pay their deposit to hold their seat for Fall 2024

Tuition Policy & Payments:

It is the hope of the Tallahassee Youth Orchestra Board of Directors that no qualifying student will be unable to participate because of financial need. Anyone for whom these options present a financial hardship should apply for a scholarship. Scholarship information and applications are available on our website.

Tuition rates for the 2024-2025 season are:

Intermezzo Strings \$440

Chamber Orchestra \$550

Symphony Orchestra \$660

Payment Policies

A deposit of \$50 is required by June 15, 2024 to hold a student's seat.

Families may choose to pay in full or set up payment plans.

For those who wish to pay in full by check, payment is due by August 1, 2024. Amounts not paid by this date will incur a late fee of \$25.

For those who wish to pay in full by credit card, or set up payment plans, there will be an additional \$25 fee to cover credit card processing and related fees. This fee is waived for scholarship students.

Payment Plan Options

Tallahassee Youth Orchestras offers two payment plans:

Until August 1, 2024, families may select payment over eight months, with payments to occur on the 1st of August, September, October, November, December, January, February, March

Important To Remember

As stated in the registration agreement, registration creates a commitment to pay for the entire season. Refunds cannot be given if the student withdraws. It is the responsibility of the participants utilizing payment plans to maintain a valid credit card in the registration/payment system. Failure to pay tuition in a timely manner will result in a penalty as determined appropriate by the Executive Board. This could include late fees, removal from concert programs, and/or exclusion from rehearsals or concerts. No member will be allowed to schedule an audition for the next season until all financial obligations for the current season have been met.

These policies have been established to create the very best musical learning opportunity for your musician and we appreciate your support!

TYO Scholarship Program

The TYO Scholarship Program provides a limited number of partial scholarships based upon the financial needs of the student. Most awards range between 25-50% of tuition. Applications must be filled out completely and received by the due date for consideration. Applicants can expect strict confidentiality regarding all sensitive information provided and award results.

The deadline for returning students to apply for a scholarship is June 5, 2024. Applicants who have registered and paid their \$50 deposit will receive a Financial Assistance Award Letter reflecting their award status by July 15, 2024.

Applicants must sign up for a payment plan to cover the remaining amount by August 15th, or commit to paying in full on August 1, 2024.

The Scholarship Committee, comprised of members of the Board of Directors and the Music Director, will be responsible for determining the number and amounts of awards provided. It is our hope to provide scholarships of 25-50% of tuition for those who demonstrate financial need. Every effort will be made to meet the needs of all TYO students and their families, but scholarship awards are contingent on the availability of funds. The Scholarship Committee reserves the right to ask for additional information if necessary.

Seating Policy:

To put forth the best musical product possible and to ensure the best possible learning outcomes for each student, TYO directors place strong players in all areas of string sections, front and back. It is the prerogative of the ensemble director to determine specific policies for his/her ensemble. It is also the responsibility of each ensemble director to clearly articulate to the students their seating policies. As a *general* template, TYO seating procedure is as follows:

Ensemble directors will determine the split between first and second violins at first rehearsal of each concert cycle. As mentioned above, each director will make every effort to balance strengths/ experience throughout the section.

During selected sectionals of every concert cycle, students will perform a brief seating audition selected from their current concert music. To protect valuable sectional time, these auditions maybe with other students in the room. Students may opt out of seating auditions with the understanding that they will be placed in non-leadership capacities in their section. Students performing auditions will be ranked according to this plan in which the highest score is seat 1 and X signifies un-ranked player:

Stand One	I	2
Stand Two	3	X
Stand Three	4	X
Stand Four	5	etc.

Unranked students who do not audition are placed after ranked (auditioned) chairs are determined. Students auditioning are not guaranteed a ranked chair.

Any First-chair player who misses more than two rehearsals for any reason will be moved to second chair with second chair player assuming the principal role.

Any ranked chair player who misses one or both of the last two rehearsals before a concert will forfeit his or her chair, being moved to a director-determined position among the un-ranked chairs.

Questions or Concerns:

Questions or concerns about seating policies should be directed *first* to the ensemble director of your child's ensemble, not the executive director or a member of the board. If there are continued concerns, they should be directed to the Music Director.

Any other questions or concerns about sectionals, small ensembles, or coaching, should be directed to the Music Director.

Attendance policy:

Students will be allowed one pre-excused and one emergency absence per concert cycle. Pre-excused absences may be requested using the form generated through the link on the website. The form should be submitted to the Music Director for approval at least two weeks before the proposed absence. Emergency absences are for illness or other serious emergency issues. In these cases, an email to tyodirector@gmail.com to advise the staff of the absence is sufficient. Each instance a student is tardy for rehearsal will count as half an absence. A student will be counted as tardy if he/she is not in their seat and completely ready to tune at the posted time for rehearsal. If a student is counted absent more than two times per concert cycle, he/she will not be allowed to perform in that concert. In these cases, parents can appeal to the executive committee to have that student reinstated to the concert. The executive committee will make its decision with deference to the child's ensemble director's recommendation. Additional stipulations with regard to absences are described under the Seating Policy. Reinstatement to a concert after an appeal does not negate the Seating Policy stipulations.

Dress Code:

Concerts serve as periodic end-goals for the weekly rehearsal of TYO ensembles and give members the opportunity to perform publicly. Uniformity in dress contributes to the professional presentation of the youth orchestras

Intermezzo-

- *Ladies:* White blouse, black dress pants OR full-length skirt, black hose, and black shoes. No bare arms, bare legs, or mini skirts.
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- *Gentlemen:* Long-sleeve white shirt, black pants, black socks, black shoes, and black bow ties. Black cummerbunds are optional.

Chamber Orchestra-

- *Ladies:* Long black dresses OR long black skirts and black tops giving the appearance of a long black dress; black hose and black shoes. Also acceptable are long, loose-fitting black pants. No sleeveless dresses or tops; no bare arms, bare backs, or bare legs.
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- *Gentlemen:* All black attire with a dress tie: Long-sleeve black shirt, black pants, black socks, black shoes

Symphony Orchestra-

Ladies: Long black dresses OR long black skirts and black tops giving the appearance of a long black dress; black hose and black shoes. Also acceptable are long, loose-fitting black pants. No sleeveless dresses or tops; no bare arms, bare backs, or bare legs.

Gentlemen: Black tuxedo jackets and pants, white shirts, black bowties, black socks, and black shoes. Black cummerbunds are optional.

Concert Procedures:

- Call times will be announced 1-2 weeks in advance of each concert
- Members may be asked to sit out if inappropriately attired
- Family and friends should be seated before the start of the concert. Walking in aisles should be kept to a minimum and preferably during applause only. Walking around the concert hall during the performance is inappropriate unless due to an emergency
- Families wishing to film the concert with a camera on a tripod are asked to seat themselves in the back rows. Small cameras/phones for filming are welcome. However, please refrain from iPads and other large type devices for filming unless you are seated in the back rows
- No applause between movements, please. Use your concert program as a guide. The conductor will usually face the audience at the end of a multiple-movement piece, at which time it is appropriate to applaud
- TYO performances are open to the public and may be recorded. From time to time, pictures of musicians may appear in newspapers and television for the purpose of informing the community about our orchestra, or in TYO promotional materials. The performances may be posted on our YouTube channel, shown on television, and/or aired on radio in part or in their entirety

A Few Friendly Suggestions:

Allow time for parking at FSU, which can be tricky. See the TYO web page “Members” tab for more details.

Help your student remember to bring a sharpened pencil to each rehearsal. Intermezzo and Chamber must remember to bring a music stand to rehearsals.
TYO communicates with our students and parents via e-mail.

Please notify us promptly of any email changes.

TYO Contact Info:
tyodirector@gmail.com

2024-2025 TYO Calendar

August

16-18 Symphony Retreat
25 Start of regular rehearsals at FSU for all ensembles

September

1 Labor Day Holiday, No rehearsals
8 Rehearsals
15 Rehearsals
22 Rehearsals
29 Rehearsals

October

6 Fall Concert, Opperman Music Hall 3:00 PM
13 Rehearsals
19 Small Ensemble's Concert
20 Rehearsals
27 Rehearsals

November

3 Rehearsals
10 Rehearsals
17 Rehearsals
24 Thanksgiving Holiday, No rehearsals

December

1 Rehearsals
7 Tallahassee Holiday Stroll
*TYO Community Orchestra
8 Rehearsals
15 Holiday Concert, Ruby Diamond 3:00 PM

January

5 Rehearsals
12 Rehearsals
18 TYO Concerto Competition
19 Rehearsals
26 Rehearsals

February

2 Rehearsals
9 Rehearsals
16 Rehearsals
23 Guest Artist Concert, Ruby Diamond 3:00 PM

March

2 Rehearsals
9-16 Spring Break, No rehearsals
23 Rehearsals
30 Rehearsals

April

6 Rehearsals
12 Small Ensemble's Concert
13 Rehearsals
20 Easter Holiday, No rehearsals
27 Rehearsals

May

4 Spring Concert, Ruby Diamond 3:00 PM
*End-of-Year Banquet 5:30 PM